



Libby Cash Maus Middle School

Orchestra Handbook

2024-2025

Director of Orchestras

Jamie Romo

Assistant Director

Andre Gaspar

Fine Arts Director

Preston Hazzard

Principal- Chakosha Powell

Asst. Principal- Cami Leal

Asst. Principal- Ryan Ratcliff

Orchestra Office Phone Number is 469-633-5276

www.mausorchestra.com

The Maus Orchestra Program has a rich tradition of excellence and quality. Our success centers on the pursuit of excellence, pride, commitment to learning, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. As a member of the Maus Orchestras you will make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie that is unique to our musical organizations.

By accepting membership in the Maus Orchestras, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the orchestra staff to make this year's orchestras the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

This Handbook is designed to help you understand the expectations and guidelines of our organization. It has been written for the Maus Middle School Orchestra Members and their parents with the intent of providing information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations, and activities of the orchestra program. **All orchestra students and parents are expected to read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the policies stated herein.**

MAUS ORCHESTRA PRIDE!!

Philosophy of Instrumental Music

A well-rounded education is enhanced by the study of music. Music develops **self-confidence**. Music gives each student a feeling of **pride** and **accomplishment**. Playing in an orchestra teaches students how to work together and enables them to develop the **social skills** necessary to be a part of a performing organization. Orchestra instills many values, responsibility, purpose, cooperation, duty, and sensitivity to beauty. While not all orchestra students are expected to become virtuosos, most become more mature, cooperative, self-disciplined, and hard-working members of society with a deeper appreciation of the arts. Music affects all aspects of a student's development; intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual, and social.

Maus Orchestra Pride is an important element of our quality organization. We respect ourselves and those around us. We have a desire to succeed. We take playing music seriously and we enjoy what we do. We are committed to becoming the best orchestra we can possibly be.

Maus Orchestra Communication

Communication truly is the key to success

In order to have a successful program, good communication with parents, teachers, and students is essential. The BEST source of information is on our orchestra website: www.mausorchestra.com

This web page is a great resource for all of your orchestra needs. It contains: event details, calendars, private lesson teacher's contact information, practice cards, music, etc.

Please check the website often for late breaking announcements and information. The orchestra staff of Maus Middle School wants to be available to you to answer your questions about orchestra, orchestra events, and/ or your child's musical progress. If you have ANY questions or concerns, please contact me directly. Email is the quickest means of communication. Jamie Romo at romoj@friscoisd.org. You can also reach Mrs. Romo at the office phone number (469)633-5276.

Individual Orchestra Expectations

We have **Five** performing orchestras at Maus Middle School. Each group listed below functions as a very important part of our entire school orchestra program.

Orchestras are separated into:

(1) Beginner Orchestra (3) Philharmonic Orchestra (4) Symphony Orchestra (5) Advanced Symphony Orchestra

Membership in each orchestra is determined through a yearlong evaluation of a student's progress, ability, experience level, class behavior, and overall growth by end of the year auditions. Students are not automatically placed into the next level orchestra; they must show competence in certain areas. Occasionally, due to schedule conflicts, students may be placed in an alternate orchestra. Our curriculum is designed to improve individual performing skills throughout the year. The responsibilities for students in each group are outlined on the following page:

ADVANCED SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Advanced Symphony Orchestra is the top performing group at Maus. This orchestra is made up of students in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. Students in this orchestra must be proficient on their instrument and be willing to commit to regular rehearsals, sectionals, and practice times. Members are chosen by the director either through an evaluation of history with the Maus Orchestra and/or by audition. *This orchestra will focus on music literature that will be performed for concerts, elementary performances, music festivals, UIL, and MS Honor Orchestra Competitions. The Advanced Symphony Orchestra has a challenging curriculum which will require students to strive to master scales, shifting, vibrato, and a variety of advanced bowing techniques.* The Advanced Symphony Orchestra is frequently asked to perform at various events throughout the year and it is important that every member attends. Not showing up for a performance will count against a student's grade. The Advanced Symphony Orchestra will have some extra rehearsals throughout the year before or after school. Students are required to participate in ALL scheduled rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, and contests. This includes attendance at clinics, sectionals, rehearsals, contests, and concerts as listed in the orchestra calendar. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major orchestra events and count as

grades. In addition, students in the Advanced Symphony Orchestra will be required to learn and tryout for the All- Region Orchestra for a grade and will participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest for a grade. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to check the orchestra calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts, changes may need to be made to calendar dates. Throughout the year, practices and/or performances may have to be added or changed. These changes are made with the best interests of the orchestra in mind and are solely at the director's discretion. Students not meeting the guidelines may have their schedule changed to a lower level of orchestra.

*** Practice Requirements:** In order to establish and maintain a prominent level of performance, Advanced Symphony Orchestra students will need to practice for 60 minutes per day as well as study privately with a professional private lesson teacher for a 30-60 minute minimum per week (private lessons). If a lesson is missed, it must be made up as soon as possible. For normal progress, all Advanced Symphony Orchestra students are required to practice at least 5-6 hours per week, which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student. All orchestra students in grades 6-8 must take their instruments home **EVERY DAY** or an orchestra detention after school will be assigned. Students must maintain passing grades in all their classes.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Symphony Orchestra is the second performing group at Maus. This orchestra is made up of students in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. Students in this orchestra must be proficient on their instrument and be willing to commit to regular rehearsals, sectionals, and practice times. *This orchestra will focus on music literature that will be performed for concerts, elementary performances, UIL, and one additional music contest held in the spring. The Symphony Orchestra will continue individual development in technique, tone, and music through a progressive curriculum of middle school level music literature.* The Symphony Orchestra will have some extra rehearsals throughout the year before or after school. Students are required to participate in ALL scheduled rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, and contests as they are graded events. This includes attendance at clinics, sectionals, rehearsals, contests, and concerts as listed in the orchestra calendar. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major orchestra events and count as major test grades. In addition, students in the Symphony Orchestra will be encouraged to learn and tryout for the All- Region Orchestra. Symphony Orchestra Students will also participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest for a grade. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to check the orchestra calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts, changes may need to be made to calendar dates. Throughout the year, practices and/or performances may have to be added or changed. These changes are made with the best interests of the orchestra in mind and are solely at the director's discretion. Students not meeting the requirements for Symphony Orchestra may be moved down an orchestra level.

*** Practice Requirements:** In order to establish and maintain a prominent level of performance, Symphony Orchestra students will need to practice for 45 minutes per day. Symphony Orchestra students are strongly encouraged to study privately with a professional private lesson teacher for a 30-60-minute lesson per week (private lessons). For normal progress, all Symphony Orchestra students are required to practice at least 4-5 hours per week, which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student. All orchestra students in grades 6-8 must take their instruments home **EVERY DAY** or an orchestra detention after school will be assigned

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Philharmonic Orchestra is the third performing group at Maus. This orchestra is made up of students in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. *This orchestra will focus on music literature that will be performed for concerts, solos, and one additional music contest held in the spring. This orchestra will have public performances throughout the school year. The Philharmonic Orchestra will continue their musical development by learning new music concepts, techniques, and increasingly more difficult rhythms and note learning.* The Philharmonic Orchestra may have some extra rehearsals throughout the year before or after school. Students must participate in ALL scheduled rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, and contests as they are graded events. This includes attendance at clinics, sectionals, rehearsals, contests, and concerts as listed in the orchestra calendar. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major orchestra events and count as major test grades. Philharmonic Orchestra Students are required to participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest for a grade in April. The Philharmonic Orchestra could

be chosen to perform at the UIL Contest. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to check the orchestra calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts, changes may need to be made to calendar dates. Throughout the year, practices and/or performances may have to be added or changed. Changes are made with the best interests of the orchestra in mind and are solely at the director's discretion.

*** Practice Requirements:** In order to establish and maintain an important level of performance, Philharmonic Orchestra students will need to practice for 30 minutes or more per day. Philharmonic Orchestra students are encouraged to study privately with a professional private lesson teacher for a 30 minute lesson per week (private lessons). For normal progress, all Philharmonic Orchestra students are required to practice at least 2 –3 hours per week, which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student. All orchestra students in grades 6-8 must take their instruments home **EVERY DAY** or an orchestra detention after school will be assigned.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

The Concert Orchestra is the fourth performing group at Maus. This orchestra is made up of students in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. *This orchestra will focus on music literature that will be performed for concerts, solos, and one additional music contest held in the spring. This orchestra will have public performances throughout the school year. The Concert Orchestra will continue their musical development by learning new music concepts, techniques, and increasingly more difficult rhythms and note learning. The Concert Orchestra will focus on relearning notes and concepts that were a challenge in the previous year.* The Concert Orchestra may have some extra rehearsals throughout the year before or after school. Students must participate in ALL scheduled rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, and contests as they are graded events. This includes attendance at clinics, sectionals, rehearsals, contests, and concerts as listed in the orchestra calendar. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major orchestra events and count as major test grades. Concert Orchestra Students are encouraged to participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest for a grade in April. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to check the orchestra calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts, changes may need to be made to calendar dates. Throughout the year, practices and/or performances may have to be added or changed. Changes are made with the best interests of the orchestra in mind and are solely at the director's discretion.

*** Practice Requirements:** In order to establish and maintain an important level of performance, Concert Orchestra students will need to practice for 30 minutes or more per day. Concert Orchestra students are encouraged to study privately with a professional private lesson teacher for a 30 minute lesson per week (private lessons). For normal progress, all Concert Orchestra students are required to practice at least 2 –3 hours per week, which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student. All orchestra students in grades 6-8 must take their instruments home **EVERY DAY** or an orchestra detention after school will be

BEGINNER ORCHESTRA

The Beginner Orchestra is a class designed for 6th or 7th grade beginning orchestra students. Students meet daily in homogeneous classes and will learn the necessary skills to play a string instrument. Students will learn a wide range of musical and instrumental concepts throughout the year. They will perform scales, solos, and orchestra literature throughout the year. Students will focus on basic music concepts such as correct instrument hold, music note identification, instrument fingerings, rhythm notation, and tone production. ***There will be three to four public performances, one orchestra contest in April or May, and one solo contest in March the first year for Beginner Orchestra.*** Beginners will have some rehearsals before their major performances. These are the only times that all the instruments can rehearse together as a full orchestra. Students are expected to participate in our Solo & Ensemble Contest in March. In the spring, Beginner Orchestra Students are required to come to a once-a-week practice as part of our **Maus Orchestra Mentor Program. Those will be scheduled and announced to students.** This helps students prepare for their first big orchestra competition. The dates and times for our events will be given out in September (or before), so you have several months to make plans and invite your family and friends. **Attendance at all practices, rehearsals, contests, & concerts are considered grades.** Throughout the year, practices and/or performances may have to be added or changed. These changes are made with the best

interests of the orchestra in mind and are solely at the director's discretion.

***Beginner Practice Requirements:** All beginning orchestra students are required to practice at least 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week (2.5 hours per week), which is to be documented on a practice sheet given to each student. **ALL orchestra students in grades 6-8 MUST take their instruments home EVERY DAY.**

Note: At the beginning of school, students will start with 10 minutes per day and will incrementally increase their practice until they reach their 30 minute per day goal.

ALL ORCHESTRAS

***Private Lessons are a VITAL ELEMENT in a student's musical life**

We are very fortunate to have very good professional musicians in the DFW Area to teach our students. Private lessons are not remedial and are designed to meet the need of EVERY student. They allow the individual to progress at their own pace, whether that pace is on par with the class or above. Students who study with an individual instructor almost always develop a higher confidence and skill level.

Lessons are taught at Maus Middle School and can be taken before school, after school, or during your child's orchestra class period depending upon the teacher's schedule. Lessons are 23-28 minutes once per week at a cost of \$25 per lesson.

Though optional, please consider private lessons as a necessary part of the orchestra program. Parents pay their private teachers directly.

Students and parents who enroll in lessons are expected to continue for one full calendar year.

Classroom Procedures

1. Respect your fellow orchestra members, orchestra directors, and yourself.

Be a good team player. You are expected to always show a positive and willing attitude. Focus and look at the director! Support and encourage each other!

2. Be prepared for each rehearsal. Have all your supplies at every rehearsal.

Every student must always have a pencil at their stand. Marking music helps students learn faster and increases productivity. A student loses points from their weekly participation grade each time they do not have their materials for class. (Instrument, binder, book/ music, and pencil)

3. Do not be tardy. Orchestra students have two minutes after the tardy bell rings to open their locker and be carefully seated with their instruments and materials.

4. Do not talk during rehearsal or tuning. If you have questions, please raise your hand.

5. Keep fingernails cut to an appropriate length to allow proper position and playing habits to develop. No nail tips are allowed.

6. Good posture and playing positions are expected. If you look like a pro, you will sound more like a pro.

7. Communicate effectively and promptly regarding conflicts with the scheduled calendar of events. Calendar conflicts should be discussed at least one week prior to the event.

8. No food, drink, or candy may be eaten in class unless the director specifies it ahead of time. You may never have **GUM** in the orchestra room or in a rehearsal/ performance. **Only students who are enrolled in choir or orchestra may enter the choir & orchestra room.**

9. ALL ORCHESTRA MEMBERS: Instruments must go home every night. This

ensures that music assignments are prepared. The same consequences will result for instruments left at school as any rules violation. Instruments left at home constitute the same violation. Thanks for your commitment.

10. Orchestra Lockers must be shut and locked every day after class! Orchestra Lockers are for your instruments and music folders and supplies. Do not touch another student's locker or individual property. Remember the camera!!!
STUDENTS WHO LEAVE THEIR INSTRUMENTS & OR MATERIALS IN THE FLOOR AFTER CLASS WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC DETENTION.

Disorderly behavior will not be tolerated. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE for the following behaviors: Profanity, Vandalism (including writing on stands/ and or chairs), Theft, Fighting. First time violations will result in an immediate office referral and a Parent Conference. As an elective class, participation and membership in the Maus Orchestra is a privilege, not a right.

Disciplinary Consequences:

These rules and procedures are established to allow for the best learning environment possible. Most orchestra students are the best behaved in the school, so discipline problems will be uncommon. If a student chooses to disrupt the learning of others by not following the rules or procedures for orchestra, consequences will follow to discourage that type of behavior. The following consequences will occur:

1. Verbal Warning & or Written Warning
2. Student Conference
2. Teacher Detention & Parent Contact
3. Parent Call/ Conference
3. Office Referral with assigned consequences & Parent Contact
4. Possible restriction from participating in any extracurricular events.
5. Office Referral, possible removal from the orchestra.

We follow policies in place with the administration.

Orchestra Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and participation are important for the students' and the orchestra's progress. Participation in practices, rehearsals, and performances outside the normal school hours is a required part of the orchestra program. Absences from personal illness and other extenuating circumstances are sometimes unavoidable. Whenever possible, the parents should give advance notice to the director of any absence. **Unexcused absences from practices, rehearsals, or performances may result in a lowered grade.** Remember- you are an important member of the orchestra team! An unexcused absence at a listed performance by an Advanced Symphony Orchestra student may result in removal to another orchestra class.

STUDENT INSTRUMENTS/ Rented/ Purchased Your instrument is valuable and proper care should be taken to maintain its value. Should your instrument need repair, check with your director before taking it to the repair shop. Never try to repair the instrument yourself, as you do not have the proper tools or skills. Instruments must have a permanent nametag on the case handle. It is recommended that all students have their instrument insured under their parent's homeowners/renter's policy.

INSTRUMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL Students may store instruments in the morning after sectionals. This is to prevent disturbances during sectionals. Before this time, students should always have their instruments with them. All instruments must be taken home daily. Combination locks must be used on all lockers. Detentions will be assigned to students for leaving their instruments at school or not using their combination locks properly.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE LOCKERS Each student will be given an instrument storage area (and lock) to keep his or her instrument in during the school day. These lockers should be used for instrument and folder storage only (not as a school or gym locker). **KEEP THEM NEAT AND CLEAN!** Care should be taken to keep lockers in good working order. No instrument should be left in the instrument locker over the weekend or on weeknights. This is a security measure for the safety of your instrument and the home practice requirements. **DO NOT TELL ANY PERSON YOUR COMBINATION.** Be sure to always lock your locker when not in class. Lost, misplaced, or stolen locks may be purchased for \$10.00. These are special order locks. Personal locks may not be used on an Orchestra Locker. **NEVER PUT YOUR LOCK DOWN ON THE GROUND, INSIDE YOUR LOCKER OR ON ANYONE ELSE'S LOCKER.** Unlocked orchestra lockers **WILL** result in detention assigned and instruments and binders left unattended on the ground.

Maus Instrument Policy **Use of School Instruments**

All instrument Usage Fees **must be paid by using** **Online School Fees** **through Frisco ISD.**

Cello and Bass students will be required by Frisco ISD to pay a fee of \$100 for use of an instrument during school even if they are renting an instrument from an outside company for home use. You may pay in full or pay half at the beginning of the fall semester and the other half at the beginning of the spring semester. If you need assistance, please contact me, and I will help as much as possible. At the end of the school year, all school owned instruments are turned in for inventory check, cleaning, and repair.

Violin/viola students needing to rent an instrument from the school will need to pay \$100 for use during the entire year. Like the cello/bass students these instruments are provided only if a family is financially unable to provide a rental instrument for use at home, and are available on a first come, first served basis.

An Instrument Loan Agreement form (included in the handbook) will need to be filled out for all instruments used by the student **but only if they are school-owned instruments.****Any damage incurred to the instrument while in the possession of that student or family is the sole financial responsibility of that party. Please act responsibly with your instrument. Do not let other students play on or touch your instrument.

CHAIRS / STANDS The chairs in the orchestra room are for sitting only. Please keep all four legs on the floor and do not lean back in the chair. The orchestra room chairs

are sometimes set for the largest orchestra class and are placed in the appropriate place before school begins. Do not move chairs from the rows at any time. Music stands are for holding music only. Please do not lean on the stand or write on the stand.

FINANCIAL AID

The Maus Orchestra is committed to making orchestra a possibility for any interested students. If your family is concerned about the additional costs of the orchestra, the Maus Boosters (MOB) can help you. We have financial aid for orchestra costs if you need help. Please reach out to Mrs. Romo if you need to apply. If your family does not want to apply for financial aid but would like to take advantage of a payment plan to break down expenses, please contact Mrs. Romo to arrange a plan that is suitable.

Materials at School (necessary)

- * Natural-colored instrument and bow in good playing condition
- * Rosin (Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass students should have rosin for their school and home instruments.)
- * Korg Tuner with pick-up
- * Soft Cloth for use after each practice/rehearsal
- * Pencil (on stand)
- * Black Orchestra binder with music and method book (see on next page)
- * Rock Stop for Cello and Bass
- * Shoulder Rest for Violin and Viola
- * Luggage Tag on Case for Identification

Additional Materials for Home (optional)

- * Music Stand (advanced symphony must have to attend orchestra tour)
- * Metronome
- * CD player
- * Computer microphone or other recording device (smartphone, etc.)

Textbooks for different orchestras:

When purchasing these books make sure you are getting the right one for your instrument! (Violin, viola, cello, or bass)

Beginner Orchestra is Orchestra Expressions Book 1 (yellow) w/cd

Concert & Philharmonic Orchestra is Essential Elements 2000 for Strings: Book 2 w/cd

Symphony Orchestra is Essential Technique 2000 for Strings, Book 3 w/cd

Advanced Symphony Orchestra is Essential Technique 2000 for Strings, Book 3 w/cd

Section Rehearsals (NOT FOR BEGINNING ORCHESTRA)

Section rehearsals are crucial to maintaining a quality orchestra program. Small group work with similar instruments ensures adequate individual attention and section development. All Symphony & Advanced Symphony Orchestra students are required to attend one section rehearsal per week for a grade as scheduled. Sometime Philharmonic Orchestra will be required to attend sectionals before a performance. During these sectionals students will work on the fundamental skills of their instrument, practice difficult sections of the orchestra music, and learn the All-

Region music. Academic grades can and will be taken during this sectional time before or after school. Sectionals will be either in the morning OR afternoon. Please try to schedule doctors' appointments, tutorials, etc. at times that do not conflict with weekly section rehearsals. If unavoidable conflicts occur, please communicate these conflicts promptly in writing along with a verbal explanation from the student and/or parent. Communication is vital to a successful program.

Concert Attendance Expectations

Concerts are a particularly important aspect of being in an orchestra. Not only is it part of the state mandated learning expectations for music students, but it is the culmination of months of demanding work by the students. It is also a grade, as stated. My expectation is that EVERY student is present at our concerts. This includes arriving on time for warm-up and staying until the final group has finished playing. I understand that circumstances arise that call for a student to miss such as illness or a death in the family. If such things do occur a make-up assignment will be given the next day the student is at school, but the student or parent must talk to me prior to the concert or as soon as they are able for the assignment to receive full credit. Forgetting to come, not having a ride or not having the appropriate uniform are NOT acceptable excuses for missing a concert. Concert dates are arranged before the previous school year ends and parents and students are notified of them on the first week of school when the handbook is available so there is plenty of time for planning. If you have any questions about acceptable reasons to miss a concert or any questions about this policy, please contact me.

Maus Orchestra Practice Cards

Practice card grades are taken weekly and are important to our success.

1. Students practice their music during the week.
2. The amount practiced will be recorded each day on their practice record.
3. Each Thursday night parents will sign off on the practice card.
4. Practice cards are due on Friday every week!

There is a scale on the practice card, so the student knows how much to practice. Each level of orchestra has a different required time amount per week. Copies of the practice card will be in the orchestra room. If a student finds himself/herself without this "official" card, students may copy one from the Maus Orchestra Web Site.

Maus Orchestra Boosters (MOB)

We have an amazing group of parents at Maus involved with the orchestra. They work hard and work with staff and students to provide opportunities for our wonderful orchestra students. Our Maus Orchestra Boosters support our students and contribute to the orchestra vision. Every parent of a current Maus Orchestra Student is a member of the MOB (Maus Orchestra Boosters). Yearly student dues are determined by the MOB and cover contest entries, uniform t-shirts, recording fees, award fees, clinician fees, transportation fees, socials and much more. The General MOB Meetings are held in the fall and the Spring. The MOB Board meets once a month throughout the school year.

Maus Orchestra Fundraising Maus Orchestra students are encouraged to participate in fundraising activities each year that are coordinated through the MOB. We fundraise for additional activities and financial support for our program. Fundraising activities are group efforts that go into a group account that supports our orchestra program. While students are encouraged to participate, fundraising activities are optional for all students. Information regarding the specifics of the fundraising will be communicated to students and parents at the time of the activities. Donations in support of our program are always appreciated.

Orchestra Summer Activities

Students are encouraged to continue their musical studies during the summer. Students may sign up for lessons as part of keeping their abilities fresh. There are also several camps offered for orchestra students during the summer. Information about these camps will be posted outside my office and shared with students and parents. Attendance is encouraged but optional.

- While at these camps, participants are under the rules and procedures of the specific camp involved.

Maus Travel Guidelines

The Orchestra Director will determine transportation to and from local performances. If a student must leave directly from a performance, he/she may be released only to his/her parent/guardian by the Head Orchestra Director. Any exception to this guideline must be submitted in writing and approved by the orchestra director prior to the event. At many evening concerts, parental transportation and supervision is required. Punctual arrival and pick-up from concerts is expected. Parents must arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the announced ending time for all orchestra activities. Students picked 30 minutes after the official end of an orchestra event will not be allowed to attend the next social event.

Maus Orchestra Uniforms

Casual Concerts:

Orchestra shirt and jeans

Formal Concerts:

Beginners: Nice clothes.

Philharmonic and Symphony:

Boys: tux shirt with black bow tie, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes.

Girls: Formal black dress, which is selected by the director, and purchased by each student. Girls must wear black closed toe or peep toe dress shoes (heels or flats). No flip flops or sandals allowed.

Uniforms are to be worn to all concerts and performing event

ORCHESTRA BOOSTER and PARENT VOLUNTEERS

As a parent of an orchestra member, there will be many opportunities for you to assist the orchestra program this year and we hope that you will volunteer a little time to help further the music education of your students and their classmates.

To become a volunteer, go to this link:

<https://friscoisd.voly.org/>

Summary of Orchestra Costs

Booster Club Dues

- **Beginner Orchestra**
\$80

Includes payment for your child's orchestra t-shirt, clinicians, contest entries, judges, recording fees, awards, social fees, Solo Festival Entry Fee, practice snacks, other miscellaneous costs throughout the year.

Due August 26th

- **Concert, Philharmonic, Symphony, & Advanced Symphony**
\$100

Includes payment for your child's orchestra t-shirt, clinicians, contest entries, judges, recording fees, awards, social fees, practice snacks, dress alterations for girls, shirt/ bow tie & cummerbund check out for boys, and other miscellaneous costs throughout the year. (does not include spring solo & ensemble fees)

Due August 26th

Booster Club Dues are due by the Fall General Orchestra Meeting on August 26th. Checks should be made payable to the Maus Orchestra Boosters or MOB.

All Region Try- Out Cost (only for older orchestra students that do audition)

\$25

Includes \$10 for All Region Boot Camp and \$15 Audition Fee

See Orchestra Descriptions

Not due until September 27th.

Optional Purchase: Orchestra Yard Sign \$10.00

Booster club dues and other costs are due by the Fall General Orchestra Meeting on August 26th. Checks should be made payable to the Maus Orchestra Boosters or MOB.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENT USAGE FEE

- **Any Grade Orchestra Student**

\$100 for the year or (\$50 per semester)

This fee is only for students who use a school owned instrument. Mainly cello and bass players. **You must pay this fee with ONLINE SCHOOL FEES through the front office.**

Due September 15th and January 15th

Money should never cause a student to not be able to participate in orchestra. If you have any financial difficulties, please inform Mrs. Romo immediately.

Books and materials on the supply list can be purchased from any of the stores listed on our Maus Orchestra Web Site. If you plan to order supplies with your class, please turn in your orders by August 26th. Make sure to put your check, made out to MOB, in an envelope with your order form marking which items you need to get. Please turn these orders in by August 26th or before. The sooner you turn it in, the sooner the stores will deliver them. They deliver supplies once a week to the school. Don't forget to tell Mrs. Romo if you are having any trouble getting a supply that you need. **See Supply Order Form.**

Maus Orchestra Handbook Signature Page

“I have read and understand all the handbook information and agree to participate fully in the orchestra program for the 2024-2025 school year. I understand that orchestra is a full year commitment and as long as I am in orchestra, I will attend all required activities (see calendar). I will strive to continually do my best and keep a positive attitude. I also understand that I am fully responsible for not only my own classroom items (personal instrument, binder, etc.), but also those that are checked out to me (school instrument, music, etc.) either briefly or for the school year.”

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date of Signature _____

I understand that my child, as a 6th/7th/8th grader, may be required to attend weekly sectionals as well as additional rehearsals. I understand these are graded rehearsals and if there is a transportation issue, I need to contact the directors as soon as possible.

I understand that my child plays an important and vital role in the orchestra and will try to schedule doctor’s appointments, etc. around these extra rehearsals. I also understand that I am fully responsible not only for my child’s own classroom items (personal instrument, binder, etc.), but also those that are checked out to him/her (school, music, etc.) either briefly or for the school year and that I am liable for damage to or loss of any school equipment and/or music.”

Parent/Guardian Printed Name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s) _____

Date of Signature _____

Directors Acknowledgement

“I have prepared myself as best as possible for the 2024-2025 school year and will strive to the best of my ability to be the best possible teacher I can be. I am looking forward to a year full of musical learning, fun, and group successes. Maus Orchestra Pride!”

KEPT ON FILE. It must be returned in completion for your child to participate in any extra activities.

Parental Permission for Educational Trip 2024- 2025

Release of All Claims

I, _____, (parent/guardian's name) do hereby grant permission for my child to travel with the Maus Middle School Orchestra on approved field trips during the school year 2024-2025.

date _____

Parent of _____ (student)

_____ (address, including town, state and zip)

In consideration of permission granted the above-named student by the Frisco Independent School District of Frisco, Texas to attend field trips to various events and activities with the Maus Middle School Band hereby release and discharge the above-named District, its agents, employees, and officers, from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, and executions which I may have or which my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have, or claim to have against the above-named School District its successors or assigns for all personal injuries, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by, or arising out of, the above described educational trip.

I further hereby authorize a representative of the School District to consent to medical treatment of the above-name student in the event of an emergency on the trip.

(Signature of parent/guardian)

(Date and year)

Parents Home Phone # _____

Parents Work Phone# _____

Emergency Contact Name

_____ Phone _____

Relation to Student _____

Media Release Permission

I give Frisco ISD my permission and consent to photograph (by video photography or still photography and with or without soundtrack) the image, voice, and name of my child for use in media products (including Frisco cable channel 17, district and campus web page, and orchestra Facebook page) and to use such images and recorded sounds in the spirit of educational enhancement, media competitions, and reward for a job well-done.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name (Please Print): _____

**Music Store Vendors
(No specific order of preference)**

Cadenza Violins
6905 Coit Rd # 105
Plano, TX 75024
(469) 241-1152

Dallas Strings
www.dallasstrings.com
20 E. McDermott Dr.
Allen, Tx 75002
469-675-0085

