

Dear Future Viking Orchestra Members,

Congratulations on almost completing your 8th grade year! We know that you have received excellent instruction in Junior High and are looking forward to working with you at LHS.

Mr. Walton and Mr. Hogan will be visiting your school, during your class time the week of May 22-26. Please prepare the hardest **TWO** scales and the hardest **TWO** excerpts that you can perform well. Most 8th graders heading into 9th grade will choose #1 and #2. You will also be asked to perform a simple **sight reading** excerpt. We will listen to your audition and make a decision based on your audition and references from your teacher. Play the audition material to the best of your ability. Some of the music may be more challenging than you are used to but that's OK! It will allow us to ensure that you are placed in the appropriate group, Concert or Philharmonic. If you choose not to audition, you will automatically be placed with all the other freshmen in the Concert Orchestra.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare this music. We look forward to hearing you!

Sincerely,

Andrew Walton and James Hogan, Directors

fwalton@aisd.net

jhogan@aisd.net

lamarorchestra.com

HOW STUDENTS MAY MOVE UP TO AND REMAIN IN A HIGHER ORCHESTRA

Below are listed *some* of the criteria necessary for you to be considered for membership in a higher Orchestra:

1. A POSITIVE attitude toward the Orchestra Program and a willingness to COOPERATE with the director and the other students involved in the program. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT and is considered to be the Number One priority.
2. An ability to listen to and follow detailed and intricate instructions and to comprehend and foster HIGHER-LEVEL THINKING SKILLS.
3. An audition is required. Technical and musical ability on your instrument is judged by the director to be competent for the level of music that will be performed by the orchestra for which you are auditioning. IN ORDER TO MOVE UP, IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU ARE TAKING PRIVATE LESSONS ON YOUR INSTRUMENT.
4. In the event of a mid-year schedule change, a student must display a willingness to agree to an alteration of your class schedule, which could be major or minor.
5. An amount of personal practice judged by the director to be sufficient to warrant moving you into either orchestra.
6. An ability to pass all classes and remain eligible for performances and competitions. Students are expected to monitor and maintain eligibility throughout the school year. Students with consistent eligibility problems will be removed from auditioned ensembles so that they may focus their time on academics.

NOTE: Any member of the Orchestra may be asked to re-audition at the end of a semester, especially if the director determines that the individual's conduct, attitude and willingness to cooperate and/or technical skills are not meeting the criteria for that particular orchestra.

If we all abide by these guidelines and work with and for each other, we can all have an exciting year. Our class can be filled with learning more about music, our instruments and ourselves. We will even have some fun in the process. We look forward to a very rewarding year.

Andrew Walton and James Hogan, Directors