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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We have had a wonderful start to the school year in MHS Orchestra! Mr. Cortez and I have enjoyed getting to know all of our new students over the past month or so, and they are playing well and sounding great. We hope you will join us at our Fall Concert on Monday, October 7!

We have already had our first social, the annual "Howdy Party," and our first performances at our Parent/Student Meeting and Preview Concert on Tuesday, August 27.

This past weekend, we fitted all of our students for brand-new uniforms provided by MISD. The students are excited to be the first group in many years to get all-new uniforms that they helped pick out. We look forward to wearing them for the first time at our Fall Concert on October 7.

This issue includes a message from our Booster Club, as well as info about some of our new merch offerings and fund-raisers. You may notice that we will do many more (smaller) fund-raisers this year, such as Spirit nights, Merch sales, and a new Sponsorship program, since we will not be doing a large donation-based fundraiser this year.

Our Spring Trip to the beach is approved, so if you are interested in attending, be on the lookout for more information very soon.

Thanks so much for a great start to the school year. I know we are just getting started for this year and have many great things to come!

PS If you're reading this on Monday September 16, join us for MOD pizza tonight to support the orchestra! (Lake Forest and 380 location. See page 8)

Jeff Harvick

Head Orchestra Director

COVOCATION - AUGUST 2

MISD Orchestras were honored to be invited to perform the Star-Spangled Banner at MISD's annual Convocation, celebrating the start of the school year. Students from the varsity orchestras from Boyd HS, North HS, and McKinney HS combined together to perform the National Anthem (from memory!) to kick off the school year for all teachers and staff in MISD.



HOWDY PARTY

Our first party of the year, the annual Howdy Party, took place on Friday, August 16 at Towne Lake Park, right across the street from MHS. Thank you so much to everyone who came out, and especially our parent volunteers who helped make this party happen! Here are a few images from the party. Our next social is the Halloween Party on Nov 1 – costumes required!



PREVIEW CONCERT

Students performed at our Parent Meeting/Preview Concert on August 27. Each orchestra performed a section of one piece, and the students were treated to ice cream afterward by the MHS orchestra booster club.



MHS ORCHESTRA BOOSTER CLUB

From the MHS Orchestra Booster Club:

Welcome back! Our Booster Club is excited to raise funds and support all students in the orchestra program. The primary mission of the McKinney High School Orchestra Booster Club is to help enrich the lives of our young musicians and further their musical interest, through an active participation with the McKinney High School Orchestra. The McKinney High School Orchestra Booster Club will also help create awareness and advocacy in the community regarding orchestra and will help generate funding ideas to support the orchestra program.

To that end, we have a few ways that you can help!

First, we are excited to offer friends and family the opportunity to buy merchandise in support for our orchestra students. Each student will receive a shirt as part of their orchestra membership fee, but local print shop Home Team Prints will offer customization of styles and colors to round out your wardrobe. Orders may be placed online at [Home Team Prints](#) all year long and picked up at your leisure at their store (White Avenue and northbound 75).

Also, September 19, 2024 is North Texas Giving Day! This is a huge and EASY way to simply donate through [North Texas Giving Day](#). See the next few pages for more info about these offerings.

2024-2025 Officers/Committee Chairs

Korey Hudson, President

Jenny Johansen, Treasurer

Monica Kane, Secretary and Scholarship Chair

Terrecelyn Hutson, Banquet Chair

Melody Bokmeyer, Fundraising Chair

Tonja Hutson, Hospitality Chair and Volunteer Coordinator

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

MHS Orchestra is honored to be participating in North Texas Giving Day for the first time.

North Texas Giving Day is Communities Foundation of Texas' largest community investment initiative. 100% of each donation goes to nonprofits in more than 25 cause areas across 20 North Texas counties.

Last year, more than \$60 million was raised through 97,132 donors benefiting over 3,000 local nonprofits, bringing the fifteen-year total to over \$566 million for our community. North Texas Giving Day is the largest community-wide giving event in the nation.

























This year, North Texas Giving Day is this Thursday, September 19! You will be able to donate to MHS Orchestra from now through this Thursday!



[Click Here to donate!](#)

MHS ORCHESTRA MERCH

We have many different types of orchestra shirts available for purchase! Click [HERE](#) or press on the images below to visit the MHS Orchestra store at hometeamprints.net. Shirts can be purchased at any time, and picked up in store a few days later.

 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Short Sleeve SKU MCK00687 \$16.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Dri-Fit Short Sleeve SKU MCK00692 \$21.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Electric Dri-Fit Short Sleeve SKU MCK00693 \$24.00</p>	 <p>LADIES McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Dri-Fit V-Neck SKU MCK00706 \$22.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Comfort Colors Short Sleeve SKU MCK00699 \$22.00</p>	 <p>LADIES McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Game V-Neck Tee SKU MCK00707 \$23.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Bella+Canvas Short Sleeve SKU MCK00696 \$20.00</p>
 <p>LADIES McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Bella+Canvas Ladies SKU MCK00710 \$21.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Tie Dye Short Sleeve SKU MCK00695 \$22.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Next Level Short Sleeve SKU MCK00701 \$20.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Long Sleeve SKU MCK00690 \$20.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Dri-Fit Long Sleeve SKU MCK00691 \$23.00</p>	 <p>LADIES McKinney Orchestra - Circle - 3/4 Sleeve Baseball Raglan Tee SKU MCK00709 \$27.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Bella+Canvas Long Sleeve SKU MCK00698 \$23.00</p>
 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Crew Sweatshirt SKU MCK00689 \$24.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Bella+Canvas Crew Sweatshirt SKU MCK00697 \$32.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Hoodie SKU MCK00688 \$29.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Tri-Blend Hoodie SKU MCK00703 \$30.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Short Sleeve Hoodie SKU MCK00702 \$27.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Raglan Hoodie SKU MCK00700 \$35.00</p>	 <p>McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Electric Dri-Fit Hoodie SKU MCK00694 \$39.00</p>
 <p>LADIES McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Lightweight Raglan Hoodie SKU MCK00708 \$30.00</p>	 <p>LADIES McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Cotton Tank SKU MCK00704 \$18.00</p>	 <p>LADIES McKinney Orchestra - Circle - Dri-Fit Racerback Tank SKU MCK00705 \$21.00</p>				

SPIRIT NIGHTS

Skip the cooking and cleaning once a month, and support MHS Orchestra at the same time! Below are our restaurant spirit nights for this semester.

By eating at these restaurants and mentioning MHS Orchestra, 20% or more of proceeds will be donated to the MHS Orchestra Booster Club.

Mark these down on your calendar and bring a friend – MHS Orchestra chooses not to do school-wide cell phone callouts for these events!

Monday, Sept 16
MOD Pizza
Lake Forest & University
Use code MODGIVES25 when ordering online
All day!

Monday, Oct 21
Chipotle
Craig Drive (Eldorado & 75)
4-8pm

Monday, November 19
Super Shack
2901 S. Central Expy

Monday, December, 16
Panera
Craig Drive (Eldorado & 75)

And remember to mention MHS Orchestra when you order!

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Who is this for? This program is for businesses, parents, or even students who want to help support the orchestra program. An “ad” can be a shoutout to your kid or to your friends, a logo for a business, or just a message of support.

What is this for? The purpose of this sponsorship program is to help raise funds to support the orchestra program, including scholarships, financial aid for private lessons, social events, and necessary equipment.

Do I have to utilize every benefit of a sponsorship level I purchase? No. For example, you can select a Silver Strings Sponsorship, and only have an “ad” in the program and newsletter, but not on the live stream, for example. The order form at mhsorch.com/sponsor lets you choose which benefits you are interested in utilizing.

Platinum Strings Sponsor – \$500

- Limited to three sponsors
- Full color ad on inside cover of concert programs
- Ad in concert live streams (youtube.com/mhsorch)
- Ad on screens in auditorium during concerts
- Logo on website (mhsorch.com)
- Full-page ad in monthly newsletter
- One social media highlight per semester
- Two reserved box seats for all concerts

Gold Strings Sponsor – \$250

- Black & white ad in concert programs
- Ad/logo in concert live streams (youtube.com/mhsorch)
- Ad/logo on screens in auditorium during concerts
- Logo on website (mhsorch.com)
- Half-page ad in monthly newsletter
- One social media highlight per semester
- Two reserved box seats for all concerts

Silver Strings Sponsor – \$100

- Black & white ad in concert programs
- Ad/logo on screens in auditorium during concerts
- Quarter-page ad in monthly newsletter

Supporting Sponsor – \$50

- Business/Family/Individual recognized in concert programs
- Will be listed with other supporting sponsors
- Can be listed as business name, individual name, Family of_____, Mr. and Mrs. _____, etc.

Sponsorships can be purchased at mhsorch.com/sponsor
Email logos/designs/questions to booster@mhsorch.com

**Click here
to become
a sponsor!**

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NORTH TEXAS CAT RESCUE**



**Visit North Texas Cat Rescue at
www.northtexascatrescue.com**

SPRING TRIP - CORPUS CHRISTI

APRIL 25-28, 2025

MHS Orchestra is returning to the beach! Our Spring Trip this year will take us to South Texas and the beaches and other attractions in Corpus Christi. This trip has us leaving early on a Friday, and returning late on a Monday. The Monday is the 2nd "bad weather makeup day" of the year, so there's a very good chance students will only miss one day of school.

Students will stay in 6-person condos (each with 3 bedrooms), right on the beach. We will also spend time at the USS Lexington aircraft carrier, performing on the flight deck. We'll also go on a dolphin cruise and tour the excellent Texas State Aquarium.

This trip will be limited to 48 student spots - first come, first served. We will let you know via email when the trip is ready to start accepting signups.



CORPUS CHRISTI

McKinney High School Orchestra

Friday, April 25th

- 6:00am Arrive at school and load bus
1400 Wilson Creek Pkwy, McKinney, TX
- 6:30am Depart
7 hour drive with one hour lunch stop and one hour buffer
- 4:00pm Arrive in Corpus Christi!
- Stop at the grocery store, get food for your condos
- 5:00pm Check into beachfront condos
- Beach and pool enjoyment
- 6:00pm Cooking competition, cook lunch for your condo mates and let the directors be the judges

Saturday, April 26th

- 9:00am Eat breakfast in your condo
- 10:00am Free time for the beach and the pool
- 12:00pm Lunch in your condo
- 2:00pm Volleyball tournament
- 5:00pm Dinner in your condo
- 7:00pm In the game: Go Karts, bumper boats and putt-putt golf
- 10:00pm Return to condos

Sunday, April 27th

- 9:00am Eat breakfast in your condo
- 10:00am Sandcastle building lessons on the beach
- 12:00pm Lunch in your condo
- 3:30pm Stop at a local surf shop
- 5:00pm Dinner at Landry's
- 7:00pm Dolphin watch boat ride
- 9:00pm Return to condos

Monday, April 28th

- 8:00am Eat breakfast in your condo
- 9:00am Pack and load motorcoach
- 10:00am Visit the Texas State Aquarium
- 12:30pm Lunch in the mess hall on the USS Lexington
- 1:30pm Perform on the USS Lexington
- 2:00pm Visit the USS Lexington and see IMAX Movie
- 3:30pm Depart for home
- Stop for dinner en route (on own)
- 12:00am Arrive at school

UPCOMING DATES

Saturday, October 5
All-Region Auditions
Independence HS, Frisco

Monday, October 7
Fall Concert
MHS Performing Arts Center
6:30pm

Saturday, October 19
McKinney Parks & Rec Trick-or-Treat Trail
Towne Lake Park
3pm-7pm

Saturday, October 26
All-State Audition Recording
Lawler Middle School

Friday, November 1
**Performing Arts Halloween Party
(MHS Choir, Orchestra, Theater)**
MHS Performing Arts Area
6:30-9:30pm

November 14-17
**MHS Performing Arts Presents:
SpongeBob Squarepants the Musical**
Nov 14-16: 7pm, Nov 17, 2pm
MHS Performing Arts Center
Ticket sales info will be in next month's newsletter

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: TYLYN HUTSON!



Tylyn is a senior cellist in Philharmonic Orchestra. She currently serves as the orchestra president for the 2024–2025 school year, and has previously served as the orchestra secretary. She is an MHS Golden Ambassador, a 3-year member of NHS, and a recipient of multiple Academic Excellence Awards. Tylyn has also been a Varsity Marquette for three years!

Q: What do you love most about being in MHS Orchestra?

A: Walking into class every day, knowing I'll leave with something new to practice and improve upon. Orchestra is typically fast-paced and always evolving, which keeps me on my toes and pushes me to grow as a musician, and a person. But what makes it truly special is sharing those highs and lows with some of my closest friends. We've faced challenges together, celebrated our successes, and supported each other through it all. These moments have been more than just a part of my high school experience—they've shaped some of my most cherished memories.

Q: What advice do you have for first-year members of MHS Orchestra?

A: Don't let anyone's negativity impact your love for your instrument. Playing music is more than just a skill; it's an expression of who you are, a way to connect with something deeper. The ability to read music is impressive, but the true talent lies in bringing notes to life through your instrument. It's a gift that not everyone has, and it's something to cherish and protect. Remember, the joy and fulfillment you get from playing is what truly matters. Hold onto that passion, and let it guide you, no matter what anyone else says.

Q: What has been your favorite memory in orchestra?

A: The 2023 Howdy Party! Yes, it was hot, but that didn't stop us from having an absolute blast. That year was special because I moved up to a new orchestra, and it felt like the perfect chance to step out of my comfort zone and get to know everyone. I made sure to talk to almost everyone in my new orchestra, and it was such a rewarding experience. There's something special about connecting with new people who share your passion, while also getting to relax and laugh with old friends by the lake. The memories we made, from sharing stories on the dock to enjoying the food, games, and music, will always stay with me. It was one of those moments that reminded me why I love being apart of this incredible community.

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