

INSTRUMENTAL



Kinder High School for the
Performing and Visual Arts

2022-23

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENT HANDBOOK

THREE-TIME RECIPIENT

GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL GOLD AWARD

Welcome to the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Instrumental Music Department. The Instrumental Music Department offers students an intense musical study experience, with an emphasis on developing a high level of skill in musical performance, creativity, and collaboration. The Instrumental Music faculty value challenging each student to exceed their own expectations, take risks, and develop fellowship through the arts.

Instrumental Music Department Mission Statement

The mission of the HSPVA Instrumental Music Department is to provide students with highly specialized rigorous

musical training while fostering an appreciation for the arts, guiding them on their journey towards graduation and post graduation studies as future performers and arts advocates.

Instrumental Music Department Philosophy

The HSPVA Music Department's primary aim is to promote the musical intelligence and social/civic potential of each student through active participation in music ensembles, group and individual technical instruction, and interaction with performing artists. Beyond the development of musical skills, students learn positive, professional work ethic, allowing them to develop as music-citizens.

This document contains the official policies of the Instrumental Music Department, and are supplemental to the HISD School Board policies and Student Code of Conduct, and the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook. The goal of these policies is to preserve the quality of the music making experience for all involved. Early communication is the best way to handle any problems that may arise. You are asked to acknowledge online that you have read these documents, agree to the policies and understand the consequences of violating the policies. All of these documents are available at www.hspva.org on the Music Department web page.

Expectations of Students, Parents and Guardians

Instrumental Music Department students are expected to show up with a positive attitude, focused energy, and a generous spirit. In their ensemble and solo work, students will commit to respecting and listening to ideas both from their teachers and other students, focusing on the task at hand, and abiding by the class rules per the class Syllabus.

Students are financially responsible for all instruments, music, folders, and performance attire that are issued to them. Students are expected to be careful when handling all Kinder HSPVA equipment, including the rehearsal halls, performance spaces, classrooms, practice rooms, music stands, and chairs.

Parents and Guardians are expected to support and guide their children in fulfilling their part of the Kinder HSPVA Entrance Agreement, in following the policies in the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook, ensuring students are present and prompt each school day and at all rehearsals and performances, and actively support their children in their daily musical practice.

If a conflict arises with another student and they are not able to resolve it themselves, the student should not hesitate to tell their teacher. If the issue is with a teacher, parents/guardians should encourage their child to first speak with that teacher in person to attempt to resolve the conflict. If that does not work, the parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the teacher themselves. If the issue remains unresolved, you may contact Dr. Blandon, the Assistant Principal assigned to the Music Department. The faculty and administrators are happy to

address your concerns, and most conflicts can be worked out with good communication.

Ensemble Placement Policy

Ensemble placement is solely the decision of the Director of the ensemble. Placement in some ensembles may require an audition. Students and Parents or Guardians should address questions about placement to the ensemble's Director.

Attendance

Students and Parents should be aware of the attendance policies in the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook and each class syllabus. Music ensemble performance is a collaborative effort where every member is vital, and the absence of any member affects the entire ensemble's sound. "Making up" a rehearsal or performance is not possible.

In the event of a conflict between a Kinder HSPVA Instrumental Music rehearsal/coaching/curricular event and an off-campus/extracurricular activity, a written request for permission to be excused from the HSPVA activity must be submitted to the Music Director for approval at least 4 weeks prior to the conflict. Only one approved conflicting off-campus/extracurricular activity will be allowed per semester, if the student is in good academic standing, and will result in an excused absence. The Music Director can deny any request if the conflict is deemed to adversely impact any rehearsal/coaching/concert/curricular event.

The Instrumental Music Calendar is posted on the Kinder HSPVA website. Each student is expected to keep a calendar with all their performances and rehearsals listed. No student will be excused from a required Kinder HSPVA concert or recital to perform with an outside group or for college visits. Chronic tardiness or absences will result in a student being placed on probation and may affect a student's status in the ensemble (e.g. part assignment, solo opportunities). Performing privileges, including a Senior Recital, may also be suspended. It is the student's responsibility to make up classwork, homework, tests, and quizzes when absent. Students should make arrangements for the make-up work before the absence when possible.

Probation and Exit

The expectations in the "Probation and Exit" section in the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook include any expectations or requirements listed in the syllabi for all Instrumental Music classes and ensembles the student is a member of. Students placed on probation or receiving multiple detentions may also face Art Area consequences, which could include:

- Suspension of performing privileges, including the Senior Recital
- Removal from trip or other extracurricular participation
- Forfeiture of the Art Area Certificate

Performance Attire

Each performance class requires specific attire for performances. See the class syllabus for details. Failure to follow the concert attire guidelines could result in the immediate loss of performing privileges and/or grade failure.

UIL Student Eligibility Rules

Students must be academically eligible to participate in any Instrumental Music Department event on campus with an admission charge, or any event that is off campus. For more information on UIL Student Eligibility Rules, visit <https://www.uil texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/academic-requirements>

Senior Recitals

See the Senior Recital Handbook on the Music Department Documents page on the Kinder HSPVA website for detailed instructions and eligibility rules.

Fine Arts Certificate

Graduating seniors are eligible to receive a Fine Arts Certificate in addition to their high school diploma. To be eligible for this certificate, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Students must adhere to all ensemble guidelines and have no unexcused absences from performances.
2. Students must meet all Instrumental Music Department class requirements and performance requirements, including a Senior Recital.
3. Students must be enrolled in the same Art Area during their entire 11th and 12th grade years at Kinder HSPVA.
4. Suspension for any reason during the Senior year will disqualify the student from receiving the Fine Arts Certificate.

Art Area Honors

It is tradition at Kinder HSPVA to recognize the students who hold the highest Art-area class GPA in each Art Area. Our Art Area Honors policy is as follows:

1. Art Area Honors, like HISD Academic Honors, will be based on the senior mid-year transcript which is available in late January.
2. To be eligible for Art Area Honors, the student must have been a student at Kinder HSPVA for all 4 years.
3. To be eligible for Art Area Honors, the student must have participated in the same Art Area for at least the final 3 years.
4. Using the numerical grades in all Art classes required for the Art Area certificate, the Art GPA will be calculated to 6 decimal places
5. Students in each Art Area whose Art GPAs are in the highest 15% will be recognized as earning Art Area Honors.
6. From among the previously mentioned highest 15%, those students in each Art Area whose Art GPAs are in the highest 5% will be recognized as earning Art Area Highest Honors.
7. As is HISD policy with Academic Honors, if the calculation using the percent results in a fraction (e.g. 15% of 28 Vocal seniors = 4.2 Honors students from among Vocal seniors), the number of students included will be the next whole number (e.g. 4.2 -> 5).
8. Regalia for Art Area Honors includes red cord(s) to be worn at graduation.
 - a. Single red cord for Art Area Honors

- b. Double red cord tied together for Art Area Highest Honors
9. Honorees will keep their cords after graduation.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FULL TIME FACULTY

Ms. Shanta Childers - Music Theory

SSIVASIN@houstonisd.org

Mr. Connor Fetting – Director of Bands

CONNOR.FETTING@houstonisd.org

Mr. Rodolfo Morales – Instrumental Music Chair, Director of Classical Piano Studies

RMORALE5@houstonisd.org

Mr. Antonio Roca – Director of Mariachi Studies

ANTONIO.ROCA@houstonisd.org

Dr. Brad Smith – Director of Orchestral Studies

BSMITH36@houstonisd.org

Mr. Warren Sneed – Director of Jazz Studies

WSNEED@houstonisd.org