



The Stallion Music Department is a special organization within our school, providing an opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students to pursue additional experiences in learning and performing vocal and instrumental music. Membership in one (or more) of these ensembles is intended to instill a sense of responsibility and pride as students develop both individually and as a group.

**Before registering your child for one of our amazing ensembles,
Please first read through the Stallion Music Department Handbook below:**

Ensemble Details

Steubing Stallion Choir (4th & 5th grade)

- Choir meets after school for rehearsals on Wednesdays in the Music Room (E-117) from 3:10-4:10 pm.
- Choir members work on singing in unison and in two parts with an emphasis on vocal development to help each member reach their own personal best (supported by home practice).
- Choir Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 11, and continue through May 14.
- Performances include daytime school assemblies, evening PTA Meetings, and the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets to perform at community events (NISD ArtFest, Los Leones, UTSA Sports/Missions Baseball games, San Antonio Zoo Lights, etc).

Due to Mrs. Rojas being split between two campuses, some community performances will be given together with the Longhorn Choir from Leon Springs Elementary.

Strings Class (5th grade only)

- Strings Class is a beginner course that meets after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Music Room (E-117) from 3:00-4:10 pm, taught by Mr. Guerrero, Stinson MS Orchestra teacher.
- Strings Class offers specialized instruction to continue to develop each student's music reading and playing technique on their choice of orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, and cello).
- A commitment to home practice and consistent attendance is a crucial part of this process.
- Fifth graders who successfully complete the requirements of the program have the opportunity to move from Beginning Orchestra straight to Intermediate Orchestra when they are promoted to middle school.

If you were not able to attend the Information Meeting at Stinson Middle school, Mrs. Rojas will be happy to share information and addresses of music shops in town.

- Strings Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 10, and continue through May.
- Strings performances include daytime school assemblies, evening NISD orchestra concerts, evening PTA Meetings, and the May Strings Rocks clinic/concert with fellow NISD 5th graders.
- **Please click here: [Supply List](#) to see required class materials.** We strongly encourage renting your child's instrument at first, rather than purchasing (especially online).

Member Expectations

- Choir and Strings students are expected to attend rehearsals and lessons each week, practice at home in order to progress with their peers, and attend/participate in all scheduled NISD venue performances, such as PTA Meetings, ArtFest, Strings Rocks, etc.
(For performances at venues that charge admission, attendance is encouraged, but optional).
- However, membership in the Choir or Strings Ensemble does not excuse students from homework or other responsibilities set forth by a teacher or administrator.
- Ensemble membership is a time commitment (until May). We want our students to grow as musicians, and we offer a variety of performance opportunities, introducing music of various genres and from different parts of the world. *Mrs. Rojas offers September as a trial period for these groups. After September, it is Mrs. Rojas' expectation that students and parents will support and honor this commitment through the end of the year.*
- Students are expected to maintain passing grades in all subjects and earn nothing less than an S in conduct in all classes (including Discovery/Specials) in order to remain in the ensemble.
- Students receiving office referrals or failing classes/citizenship will be put on probationary status. *Mrs. Rojas will follow up with classroom teachers to track progress. Failure to improve grades or conduct by the following progress report/report card will result in dismissal from the group.*
- Students must follow the same rules & behavior expectations that are used in the classroom during the day. In addition, the following expectations are to be met:
 - o Only water and rehearsal/class supplies may be out during rehearsals.
- Uncorrected behavior problems in rehearsal will result in dismissal from the group.

Transportation

- Transportation for after school rehearsals and performances must be provided by guardian(s), as there are not usually buses available. Please note that extreme temperatures (both hot and cold) are potentially damaging to string instruments, as well as people
- Dismissal will be at 4:10 pm and students must be picked up from in front of the school by 4:20 pm if your child is not enrolled in the Steubing Learning Tree program.
- Students may ONLY ride with other adults IF a note from their guardian has been e-mailed or given to the director in advance. I understand things happen outside of our control, but please notify the front office if you are running behind.
- After three late pickups, your child may be dismissed from the ensemble.

The Uniform

All Stallion Music Ensemble students will be expected to wear a uniform for all performances.

- Stallion Music Dept. Feel the Music T-Shirt (Cost is \$20, and is purchased through Steubing)
- Jeans (purchased on your own - full length, preferably not ripped; no shorts, capris or skirts)
- Closed-Toe Shoes (purchased on your own - sneakers are fine!)

Please wait to send payment for t-shirts till the order form is sent out. We use the same shirt for both Strings and Choir, so students in more than one group only need the one shirt!

However, please don't let financial constraints keep your child from participating.

Contact Mrs. Rojas and arrangements will be made on an individual basis.

Attendance

Please see the Schedules for [Choir](#) and [Strings](#) for important dates.

Ensemble members are expected to attend all district/school sponsored performances. You will have those dates early so you can make arrangements to attend. I understand there are sometimes conflicts that are unavoidable. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact me by e-mail before any rehearsal or performance when an absence is necessary. Otherwise, a note explaining the absence must be turned in at the following rehearsal. Mrs. Rojas' e-mail address is: Emanielli.Rojas-Caez@nisd.net

Please note the attendance policy: If a student has more than five unexcused absences, then he/she will not be able to continue to participate in that ensemble.

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|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Unavoidable absence | • Avoidable absence |
| · Personal illness | · Went on vacation |
| · Family emergency | · Forgot about class/rehearsal |
| · Conflicting campus meeting (1 per month) | · Forgot instrument/lost voice |
| | (Even just listening at rehearsal can help students learn and stay caught up) |

Because Mrs. Rojas is the music teacher at two different campuses, it is very helpful if on your registration form you put an e-mail address that you check regularly and a phone number you can be reached at quickly (especially in case of emergency).

Another way Mrs. Rojas **strongly** prefers to communicate with our Stallion Music Dept families is via **the Remind text service**. She will also post on her Class Dojo, but text notifications are faster.

Click here: [Choir Remind](#) Click here: [Strings Remind](#)

After the first two weeks of rehearsals (September 20), the window for registration forms will be deactivated. Please contact Mrs. Rojas directly with any questions.

After reading through this handbook and reviewing the 2024-25 Schedules, if you'd like to register your child for Choir and/or Strings, please complete the Google Form(s) below:

Click here: [Choir Registration](#) Click here: [Strings Registration](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions. We're really excited for all that's in store for the Stallion Music Department this year!

SING-cerely,
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STRING-cerely,
Marcelino Guerrero, Orchestra Director
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