

## Welcome to Orchestra at McKinney Boyd High School

- **How many orchestras do we have at Boyd?**
  - Our orchestra program is divided into SIX orchestra classes. We have approximately 200 students each year and our orchestras are divided by ability. Incoming 9th grade students prepare an audition packet to determine their orchestra placement in the spring of their 8th grade year. Don't worry - it's not scary or difficult, we just want to hear you play so that we can place you in an orchestra where you will be successful! There is a place for musicians of all levels in the Boyd orchestra program.
- **Who are the orchestra directors?**
  - Michael Link has been head orchestra director at Boyd since 2009. He has been teaching for 29 years and is a pianist and percussionist.
  - Michelle New has been associate orchestra director at Boyd since 2013. She has been teaching for 13 years and is a violinist.
  - Both directors work with all orchestra students at Boyd and we have a lot of fun together!
- **What can I expect in orchestra at the high school level?**
  - In high school you can continue to develop as a musician and venture into a much higher level of repertoire. We perform high level concerts and compete at UIL. There are also so many opportunities to excel as an individual - be recognized as an All Region or All State musician or as an outstanding soloist. In high school you can earn awards and honors that will look great on a college resume and you can earn a letter for your participation in orchestra. There are so many great opportunities!
- **Do we take trips?**
  - Absolutely! Each year we typically take a day trip to Dallas or Fort Worth where we take in tourist attractions and see a show. We also typically schedule one overnight trip each year. Every 3 years we are able to do an out of state trip, and 2021-2022 is that year! If the situation with the pandemic improves, we will schedule our out of state trip soon and you can be a part of it!!
- **Can I do sports and other electives with orchestra?**
  - Yes! Many of our students are in more than one activity at Boyd and do it successfully. Your counselors will help you fit it all in! Most of our orchestra students maintain a schedule full of pre-AP and AP classes, participate in athletics, some are also involved in other fine arts, and many love to be involved in several other organizations throughout their high school career!
- **I am ALL about orchestra!! I want more!**
  - Our orchestra program includes the Boyd Orchestra Ambassadors, an extra-curricular orchestra that anyone enrolled in orchestra can be a part of. It's a lot of extra playing - schools, retirement homes, downtown events - but it's a lot of fun and a great way to improve skills and make new friends. If you LOVE to play, join us!
- **Sign me up!**
  - If you put orchestra on your choice card as a first choice elective, no action is needed. Look out for our audition packet sometime in late March and we'll schedule your audition from there. If you did NOT sign up originally, please contact Mrs. New and we'll help you make that change!

Contact info:

Michelle New - [mnew@mckinneyisd.net](mailto:mnew@mckinneyisd.net) - please e-mail me with questions about high school orchestra!

You can also explore more at [www.boydorchestra.com](http://www.boydorchestra.com)