Brandeis High School

2026-27 Course Syllabus

Part 1: Course & Teacher Information

Course Title
Brandeis Orchestra

Course Description
Orchestra

I Prep (9-12) #6231, II Prep (10-12) #6232, III Prep (11-12) #6233, IV Prep (12) #6234

This course is designed for students who are learning to play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) for the first time OR for students that are in the early stages of learning to play an instrument. Little or no prior experience is required for this course. Campus orchestra director will assess student skill ability for this class. Basic music fundamentals include tone, rhythm, and technique development. Students are eligible to participate in campus concert performances and UIL performance assessments and will perform music literature from various music genres. Enrollment in this course constitutes some agreement to fulfill all curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular requirements.

I Concert (9-12) #6235, II Concert (10-12) #6236. III Concert (11-12) #6237,IV Concert (12) #6238

This course is designed to build upon student skills for playing a string instrument acquired from previous courses of study. Increased performance skills will include increased music notation, technical ability, music expression, and increased precision regarding basic fundamentals for performance. All genres of music will be performed. Performance opportunities are numerous and varied. The course will require some rehearsal time outside of the school day to prepare for various concerts. UIL performance assessments and student eligibility for Texas All-State Ensembles are included in this course work. Students are eligible for selection to perform in campus full orchestra ensembles. Scholarship opportunities are available. Enrollment in this course constitutes agreement to fulfill all curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular requirements.

I Symph (9-12) #6239, II Symph(10-12) #6240, III Symph(11-12) #6241, IV Symph (12) #6242

This course is designed for students to develop a mastery level for playing a string instrument acquired from previous courses of study. Students will acquire advanced skills needed to perform very complex music literature. Students will develop strong leadership skills, evoke high levels of expression, and perform literature of all genres and ensemble instrumentation. The course will require some rehearsal time outside of the school day to prepare for various concerts. UIL performance assessments and student eligibility for Texas All-State Ensembles are included in this

course work. Students are eligible for selection to perform in campus full orchestra ensemble concerts. Scholarship opportunities are numerous. Enrollment in this course constitutes agreement to fulfill all curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular requirements.

Instrumental Ensemble

I (9-12) #6310, II (10-12) #6312. III (11-12) #6313. IV (12) #6314

This series of courses are designed for students interested in developing extensive detailed performance applications on a specific music instrument. Students work independently at their own pace, in small ensemble settings of unique instrumentation (i.e. wind choirs, string chamber groups, percussion ensembles, etc) and apply skills developed in concert, recital, and other various performance venues. Student audio portfolios are created, university audition recitals are developed, and audition preparations for TMEA all-state are all part of the curriculum. In addition, students desiring to learn to play more than one instrument can be enrolled in this class for individualized instruction. Each course builds upon the student's skill level developed in previous courses of study.

Teacher Information

Name	Olga De Leon
Room	C191
Email	olga-1.deleon@nisd.net
Phone	
Conference	6th Period

Instructional Plan

Visit the High School Instructional Plan page on the NISD site for more information.

Assessment Dates

- All Region Auditions - Oct. 3
- Pre UIL - Feb. 2
- UIL Concert & Sight Reading - Feb. 23, March 2 & 3
- UIL Solo & Ensemble March 20
- Fall, Winter, Spring Concerts

Supplies Needed

Instrument, Tonal Energy App or Tuner/Metronome, Rosin, Music Folder

---

Part 2: Grading Policies

Weighting

Weekly Grade (music/rehearsal preparedness) - 60% formative)
Playing Tests/Concerts/UIL - 40% summative

Late Work Policy

- Summatives will NOT be accepted after the end of the Marking Period, unless the student has an extenuating circumstance and is given an "I" (Incomplete) or is placed on a teacher contract.
- Minus 10 points for every week tests are late

Reteach/Retest Policy

Students have can retest anytime afterschool, during lunch or in the morning for a higher grade OR to meet pass off status for UIL

Make-up Policy

When a student is absent, the student shall be permitted to complete assignments and/or make-up work for credit toward the class grade. Upon their return, students shall be given sufficient time to gather and submit missed work. Each teacher will specify a reasonable due date for assignments and make-up work depending upon the nature of the assignment and the length and nature of the absence. If a student is unable to complete the make-up work in the designated time, they should contact the teacher as soon as they become aware that the deadline cannot be met.

Academic Integrity

NISD provides guidance on Academic Integrity in the NISD Student Handbook, which can be found HERE. Academic integrity will be monitored for all student work (formative and summative), and may be handled administratively.

Types of Violations:

- **Cheating --** Dishonesty of any kind on a test or examination, written assignment, or project, illegal possession of test or examination questions, the use of unauthorized notes during a test or examination, obtaining or giving information about a test or examination from or to another student, assisting others to cheat or altering grade records are instances of cheating.
- **Plagiarism --** Offering the work of another as one's own work without proper acknowledgment is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical material taken from books, magazines, internet sources, and other reference works or from the other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.
- **Unacceptable Use of AI --** Students must not use AI to violate academic integrity by cheating, or plagiarism.

In addition, Brandeis will be monitoring assessment integrity as students engage in classroom assessments. During classroom assessments, a third type of violation will be monitored by the teacher, as outlined below.

- **Personal Device Accessibility** -- Related to phones, smartwatches, and smart glasses, if students are found in possession of, found to be accessing content through, or found to be communicating with one of these devices during an assessment, the student will be in violation of assessment integrity. In addition, students will be in violation if they are found to have test content

on their personal device.

Assessment integrity violations will be tracked per course, not per student. Violations will be addressed on a tiered level of consequences, as outlined below.

- 1st offense -- The student may retake the assessment for a max grade determined by the teacher.
- 2nd offense -- There will be no option to retake the assessment, and the grade will remain a zero. This grade cannot be dropped or replaced.
- 3rd+ offense -- For on-level courses, there will be no option to retake the assessment, and the grade will remain a zero. This grade cannot be dropped or replaced. For Advanced courses, the student will be removed from the course on the third offense. The timing of this schedule change may not occur at the immediate time of the violation, as there are other factors to consider when changing schedules.

Part 3: Tutoring

Morning, afterschool or during lunch - Please schedule prior

Part 4: Personal Device Policy

In compliance with state law, the use of personal communication devices by students is not allowed at any NISD campus during the school day, from the first official bell to the last official bell to include passing periods and lunch periods. In the case of an emergency during the instructional day, messages can be sent from the front office for the student.

Personal communication devices include cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets, or any other electronic devices. If students choose to bring these items to campus, they will be required to comply with campus specific storage procedures. All students will be required to power off their phone before placing it in the designated storage container during each class.

Students in violation of this State law and district policy will be subject to progressive disciplinary consequences, to include confiscation of the device. Confiscated items will be released to the student's parent/guardian.

Notice of Liability: Northside ISD is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of any personal communication devices brought onto campus or stored under these guidelines. Students choose to bring these items to school at their own risk.

Part 5: Orchestra Handbook Extension

Please be sure to read Orchestra Handbook