



PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

2017-2018 Season

REHEARSAL LOCATION:
Mayde Creek Jr. High School
2700 Greenhouse Rd, Houston, TX 77084

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 6688
Katy, TX 77491
www.katyyouthsymphony.org

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ABOUT KYS

KYS MISSION & PURPOSE

The Katy Youth Symphony is committed to providing an accessible, quality music program that will help young musicians in the Katy, Texas and west Houston area to grow their talents and serve their community through music and a greater appreciation for and awareness of the arts.

Learn, Play, Grow, Serve

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

KYS welcomes all youth in the community grades 4-12 who agree to abide by its Participant Handbook and Rehearsal Respect Policies. If your school offers a band or orchestra program you are required to participate in that program. If there are extenuating circumstances that keep you from participating in your school program, you will need to get a waiver from your school's director or principal. An opening orientation for all participants (returning and new) and their parents is at the beginning of each semester (mid-September and mid-January).

SEASON CALENDAR

KYS has two semesters each season with winter and summer breaks in between semesters. The first semester is nine weeks long including eight rehearsals and a concert. The second semester is 18 weeks long and includes 12 rehearsals and two concerts, with a two week break for the spring holiday in between concerts. Specific dates of current semester are on the website.

1st SEMESTER

September – early November

November Concert

2nd SEMESTER

January – early May

March concert

May concert

COMMITMENT EXPECTATIONS

KYS participants are asked to commit for the season. Participants are expected to be at each rehearsal. If there is a need to miss a rehearsal the director needs to be notified as soon as possible. Missing more than two rehearsals before a concert will result in an inability to participate in the concert.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents whose children join Katy Youth Symphony automatically take upon themselves three important responsibilities as a participant of the organization:

1. Parents are expected to drop their students off at the beginning of rehearsal and pick them up at the end of rehearsal on time each week.
2. Parents will receive two free tickets to each concert. Parents are expected to attend their child's concerts and invite others to attend as well. Additional tickets are \$5 per person.
3. Recruiting musicians: each participant is responsible for spreading the word and encouraging other families to participate in KYS.
4. Parents will be offered the opportunity to join the Parent's Guild for \$25. The Parent's Guild will include five total tickets for each concert.

KYS understands the financial and scheduling demands of today's families, and thus requires very little of our parents when compared to other musical, athletic, and extracurricular organizations. There is no requirement to fulfill an extenuating amount of service hours to the organization, or to fundraise. However we welcome help in these areas if/when you are able.

REGISTRATION and ORIENTATION

There is a \$30 non-refundable audition fee. Registration for auditions is online only. This helps the directors to begin the significant planning for placements/group size, and music purchasing/sorting immediately at sign-up. The \$30 audition fee is per child, and is a part of the tuition total. (The remaining tuition is due at the first rehearsal.) Online registration is required for the information needed from each participant.

TUITION/FEES

Katy Youth Symphony is among the most affordable youth symphonies in America, and an inexpensive supplement to an academic education and private music lessons.

The proceeds from tuition and fees help to defray the expenses of the organization.

- Tuition is due on or before the first rehearsal as stated on the website.
- Based on financial need, the tuition fees may be broken into payments according to personal arrangements with the financial manager before orientation.

Tuition is \$375 per student per season.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE: Formal performance attire is required. Participants may wear the same formal attire they wear for their school orchestra. Black dress pants or long skirt with a black or white shirt. Male participants must wear a bow tie. Male participants in Symphony Orchestra are required to wear a tuxedo jacket. If you have a concern about finding a tuxedo jacket, please speak to a member of the KYS staff. We can assist you. Black dress shoes and long black socks are required. No one should be able to see the skin on any student's ankles when they sit to play during the concert. If there are any concerns about performance attire please speak with a member of the Katy Youth Symphony Committee.

TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION – REFUND POLICY

KYS expects participants to commit to an entire season at a time. Due to financial obligations of the Symphony fees cannot be refunded.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Participants in all orchestras must abide by the following rehearsal expectations:

- At all times abide by the **Rehearsal Respect Policies** stated on pg. 6
- Maintain good attendance as described in the **ATTENDANCE POLICY** below.
- Refrain from carrying on side conversations or inappropriate behavior.
- Sit with good posture, and eye contact with director during instruction/playing.
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating food, or drinking beverages (except bottled water).
- Have folder/music at all rehearsals.
- No cell phone use is permitted during rehearsal.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal and concert. In an effort to maintain consistent progress for each orchestra, participants may not miss more than two rehearsals before each concert. Missing more than two regular weekly rehearsals may result in the participant not being allowed to perform in the final concert, unless special arrangements have been made with the Musical Directors.

Please send a message to kys@nfaf.org for any absences prior to the absence. “No-shows” (no prior notification) at rehearsal may result in a loss of opportunity for any special assignments (solos). We have little time to rehearse, and get a lot done in one rehearsal.

Attendance at the final two rehearsals before the concert is mandatory unless extenuating circumstances occur. Participants who miss a concert run-through without prior notification will not perform in the concert. Participants who foresee a conflict with the final two rehearsals must notify Director ASAP.

If the participant is unavailable for a concert, the participant is still welcome to register and be a part of the orchestra.

OBSERVING REHEARSALS

Due to availability of seating and distractions parents are not encouraged to stay to observe rehearsal unless there is a behavior issue with their child. However, parents may observe a rehearsal with prior notification to the Director.

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

For drop off, parents may pull up to the designated door. Greeters will be just inside the door to take attendance and direct to proper rehearsal room.

For pick up, parents may wait in the parking lot or come inside.

Parents are also permitted to wait during rehearsal.

COMMUNICATION: The best way for KYS to communicate with you is through email or Facebook. It is your responsibility to make sure your email is up to date and emails are not going to your junk email folder. You can email through the link on our website or directly at kys@nfaf.org. Emails will be returned as soon as possible, but please understand every person on the KYS committee is a volunteer and has other jobs and responsibilities.

PERFORMANCES

We seek to inspire, teach, and uplift members of the organization and the community. All participants are required to stay for the entire concert and exhibit proper audience etiquette for an orchestra concert. This includes no use of cell phones, no talking during performance, and no leaving your seat during a song.

DRESS CODE

It is important to remember that participants are representing the organization and its mission when they are in attendance at rehearsals, concerts, and other performances and events. All participants will abide by the dress code at all of the organization's rehearsals and events.

REHEARSAL DRESS CODE

Participants will dress modestly at all rehearsals and events. Children should not wear revealing clothing. Tank tops, sleeveless/strapless tops, short shirts, short shorts, short skirts/dresses, and tight, revealing clothing are prohibited at all of the organization's rehearsals and events.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Formal black and white attire or all black attire is required for the concerts. Participants may wear the same formal attire they use in their school orchestra.

KYS LEADERSHIP

Katy Youth Symphony functions under the *Noyes Fine Arts Foundation*, a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. The *Noyes Fine Arts Foundation* has a Board of Directors comprised of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers as needed. The board of Directors is listed on the website at: www.nfaf.org KYS also includes a committee that handles the regular operations of the symphony. The committee member's information is listed on the KYS website: www.katyyouthsymphony.org

MUSICAL DIRECTORS

KYS is led by a team of Musical Directors. These directors oversee the selection of music, and all rehearsals and performances. The list of directors is on the website at: www.katyyouthsymphony.org

KYS REHEARSAL RESPECT POLICIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

To best serve the rehearsal time the following expectations need to be understood by the student and parent. Proper order within the rehearsals allows the director to spend all energies on the power of music as we learn and play, rather than spend energies to discipline or compete for attention. Please go through and discuss each item with your child(ren). (Keep in mind these are modified according to the maturity of the age group.) Abiding by this code of conduct will allow a pleasant experience for yourself and those around you:

1. We understand rehearsals are weekly Friday from 6:00 -8:00 pm at Mayde Creek Jr. High (2700 Greenhouse Rd, Houston, TX 77084) . (Extended time may be necessary for concert run-through rehearsals, and will be given plenty of notice.)
2. We understand drop off starts at 5:45pm. (You may drop off from your car at the entrance. Parking and coming in is not necessary.) There are no responsible adults available before 5:45pm.
3. I will be seated in the room and ready to play by 6:00. If I must be late I will let the director know ahead of time. I understand promptness is very important in all musical disciplines.
4. I will use the restroom/drinking fountain before 6:00 pm or during official break times only.
5. Upon arrival, (after restroom needs if necessary), I will proceed directly to rehearsal room and engage in warming up and tuning. I will be respectful at arrival.
6. We understand dismissal time starts at 8:00pm. Parent/guardian will arrive by 8:00 pm for pick up. I understand all of the directors and assistants need to leave by 8:15! In an emergency causing lateness I will notify 832-398-8652.
7. I understand attendance is very important. We will notify the director ahead of time for any absences. I understand unity and blending, positions in songs, solos, harmony, movement in songs, etc. depends on each individual.
8. I will bring my music with me to rehearsal every week.
9. I understand a small fee may be charged for any folders or music that will have to be replaced due to being lost or damaged.
10. I will have any snacks/drinks done before rehearsal time. I will aim to come refreshed and excited.
11. I will have no food, gum, toys, or phones in hand.
12. I will leave all electronics at home. I understand there will be NO time to pull out the electronics. If I own a phone I will keep it out of sight, not to be used during rehearsal except emergencies with parents, in which case I will communicate the emergency to the director and go out of the rehearsal room to talk.
13. I understand my full attention is expected during rehearsal. It's expected that students are quiet when they are not playing in rehearsal. I understand there is no leaving the room, or no unnecessary restroom visits for safety reasons as well as the distraction.
14. I will give eye contact to the director during instruction. I understand this is standard etiquette, and is respectful and crucial to unifying both during playing, and during instruction.
15. I understand participation is required. I understand if any student is 'not in the mood' (behavior/'attitude' issues) then they will be immediately asked to sit to the side and watch until they are ready to participate.
16. I will keep hands and feet to self during rehearsal.
17. I understand if there needs to be discipline intervention: Where the student will be given one official "warning" from the director if a negative behavior is distracting/taking teaching time away from rehearsal. If the behavior ensues, the student will be asked to sit and watch. If defiance continues, parent will be notified and asked to intervene.
18. I will be positive! I will not blurt out negative remarks, such as, "I don't like this song!"
19. I understand enthusiasm is powerful and contagious! My very attitude can affect the WHOLE ORCHESTRA!
20. I understand I am an important contribution to this orchestra! My contribution matters and makes a difference!