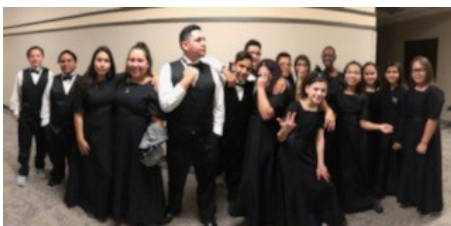


Orchestra at O.L.S.



Parent Involvement

There are numerous ways for parents to be involved with the O.L. Slaton Orchestra. We always need help at concerts, with receptions, fund raising and the end of year party at Joyland to name just a few. But the absolute best way to get involved with the Orchestra is to attend the Orchestra concerts! The kids love a big audience! However you choose, please take an active role in your child's musical journey and be a part of our Orchestra family at O.L. Slaton Middle School.



The Importance of Music Education

Music Education enriches a child's life in many positive ways. Learning to play an instrument in the Orchestra stimulates creativity and enhances learning ability. Students involved in music classes tend to have higher grades and consistently score higher on standardized test. Being a part of the Orchestra class teaches discipline, focus and self-confidence in addition to learning how to express one's self both in individual and group performances.

O.L. Slaton

Middle School



ORCHESTRA

Michael Newton, director

1602 32nd Street

Lubbock, TX 79401

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Frequently Asked Orchestra Questions



Why Should I be in Orchestra?

Orchestra is probably not what you imagine it to be. We learn all sorts of music ranging from classical Mozart to Bruno Mars's Uptown Funk and everything in between. In Orchestra you will be with old friends and make new ones while you learn to play an instrument in a safe, family atmosphere. Orchestra also helps you learn and develop a sense of team work, discipline, concentration and personal achievement.

How do I join Orchestra?

It is simple! Just put a "1" or "2" next to the word "Orchestra" on your 6th grade choice sheet. This will indicate that Orchestra is one of your top elective choices. No previous musical experience is required.

Do I need to buy an instrument?

NO! O.L. Slaton has an inventory of instruments available for students to rent for a very small yearly fee. Some students may want to consider renting or purchasing their own instrument from a reputable local music store, but it is not necessary. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

How often do the Orchestra classes meet and am I required to practice outside of Orchestra class?

Orchestra classes at O.L. Slaton MS meet everyday. Beginning Orchestra students are required to practice outside of class for fifteen minutes every day with one "free day" a week. This practice time is considered your homework grade. Practice grades are determined by how many minutes you practice each week.

Varsity Orchestra members are expected to practice at least 30 minutes each day with one "free" day each week.

Will the Beginner Orchestra be involved in concerts?

YES!! The Beginning Orchestra will participate in a "Demonstration Concert" in September, the annual fall "Hauntcert" at Monterey HS, a Winter and Spring Concert as well as the LISD Solo Competition held in February.

The Varsity Orchestra performs more frequently, and often travels off campus for special concerts and events.

O.L. Slaton Orchestra Classes at a Glance

BEGINNER ORCHESTRA

In the Beginner Orchestra classes we focus on learning the basic skills and techniques involved in playing a string instrument, learning to read music, and acquiring basic performance skills through concerts and competitions.

VARSITY ORCHESTRA

The Varsity Orchestra is the top performing ensemble at O.L. Slaton MS. Placement in the Varsity Orchestra is at the directors discretion. Members of the Varsity Orchestra perform at all concerts, perform at elementary schools, participate in All-Region Orchestra auditions and compete at Solo and Ensemble Contest and UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in the spring.

ORCHESTRA ENRICHMENT

Orchestra enrichment offered at O.L. Slaton includes such activities as playing on our quintet of electric instruments, All-Region Orchestra preparation, learning solos, performing in a chamber ensemble, practice help and lessons.