



Kinder High School for the
Performing and Visual Arts

2019-20

**THREE-TIME RECIPIENT
GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL GOLD AWARD**

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Music Department Student Handbook 2019-20 School Year

Welcome to the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Music Department. We are excited that you are here as we begin our 48th year of this amazing adventure in artistic and academic collaboration. The Music Department offers students an intense musical study experience, with an emphasis on developing a high level of skill in musical performance, creativity, and collaboration. The Music Department faculty value challenging each student to exceed their own expectations, to take risks, and be bold in their performances.

This document contains the official policies of the Music Department. These policies are in addition to the official HISD School Board policies, the HISD Student Code of Conduct, and the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook. The goal of these policies is to preserve the quality of the music making experience for all involved. Early communication is the best way to handle any problems that may arise. You are asked to acknowledge online that you have read these documents, agree to the policies and understand the consequences of violating the policies. All these documents are available at www.hspva.org on the Music Department web page. If you have any questions, please email [Dr. Smith](mailto:Dr.Smith).

Expectations of Students, Parents and Guardians

Kinder HSPVA Music Department students are expected to show up with a positive attitude, focused energy, and a generous spirit. In their ensemble and solo work, students will commit to respecting and listening to the teachers' and other students' ideas, focusing on the task at hand, and abiding by the class rules as described in the class's syllabus.

Students are financially responsible for all instruments, music, folders, and performance attire that are issued to them. Students are expected to be attentive and careful when handling all Kinder HSPVA equipment, including the rehearsal halls, performance spaces, classrooms, practice rooms, music stands, and chairs.

Parents and Guardians are expected to support and guide their children in fulfilling their part of the Kinder HSPVA Entrance Agreement, in following the policies in the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook, and ensuring students are present and prompt each school day and at all rehearsals and performances. Parents/Guardians should actively support their children in their daily musical practice, and in fostering collaboration rather than competition among their peers and ensemble members.

If a conflict arises with another student and they are not able to resolve it themselves, the student should not hesitate to tell their teacher. If the issue is with a teacher, Parents/Guardians should encourage their child to get in touch with that teacher directly first to attempt to resolve the conflict. If that does not work, the Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact the teacher themselves. If all those fail, you may contact Mr. Tellez, the Assistant Principal assigned to the Music Department. The Faculty and Administrators are happy to address your concerns, and most conflicts can be worked out with good communication.

Ensemble Placement Policy

Ensemble placement is the decision of the Director of the ensemble. Placement in some ensembles may require an audition. Students and Parents or Guardians may address questions about placement to the ensemble's Director.

Attendance

Students and Parents should be aware of the attendance policies in the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook and each class' syllabus. Please note:

- Ensemble music performance is a collaborative effort where every member is vital, and missing any member affects the entire ensemble's sound. "Making up" a rehearsal or performance is not possible. Your ensemble needs you present.
- A Music Department calendar is distributed to each student and is on the main Kinder HSPVA website. Each student is expected to keep a calendar with all their performances and rehearsals listed. No student will be excused from a required Kinder HSPVA event to perform with an outside group or for college visits.
- When a student or parent/guardian discovers a conflict with any required event, including a regular school day rehearsal, the student is expected to let the teacher know by email immediately.
- Chronic tardiness or absences will result in a student being placed on probation and may affect a student's status in the ensemble (e.g. part assignment, solo opportunities). Performing privileges, including a Senior Recital, may also be suspended.
- It is the student's responsibility to make up classwork, homework, tests, and quizzes when absent. Make arrangements for the make-up work before the absence when possible.

Probation and Exit

The expectations in the "Probation and Exit" section in the Kinder HSPVA Student Handbook include any expectations or requirements listed in the syllabuses for all Music classes and ensembles the student is a member of. Students placed on probation or receiving multiple detentions may also face Art Area consequences, which could include:

- Suspension of performing privileges, including the Senior Recital
- Removal from trip or other extracurricular participation
- Forfeiture of the Art Area Certificate

Performance Attire

Each performing class requires specific attire for performances. See the class syllabus for details. Failure to follow the concert attire guidelines could result in the student not being allowed to perform and/or receiving a failing grade for that performance.

UIL Student Eligibility Rules

Students must be academically eligible to participate in any Music Department event on campus with an admission charge or event that is off campus. For more information on UIL Student Eligibility Rules, visit <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/eligibility>

Senior Recitals

Kinder HSPVA seniors who are on track for graduation are eligible to present a senior recital as part of the requirements to receive the Fine Arts Certificate. Senior Recitals and Projects must be scheduled before Friday, December 6, 2019. Other requirements will be given by the student's primary director.

Fine Arts Certificate

Graduating seniors are eligible to receive a Fine Arts Certificate in addition to their high school diploma. To be eligible for this certificate, students must meet the following criteria:

1. No more than three failing grades (below 70) on any 6-weeks report card during their time as a student at Kinder HSPVA. Exceptions may be made for grades during 9th grade year
2. Student must adhere to all ensemble guidelines and have no unexcused absences from performances.
3. Student must meet all Music Department and Music class requirements.
4. Student must be enrolled in the same Art Area during their entire 11th and 12th grade years at Kinder HSPVA.
5. Suspension for any reason during the Senior year will disqualify the student from receiving the Fine Arts Certificate.

Art Area Honors

It is tradition at Kinder HSPVA to recognize the students who hold the highest Art-only GPA in each Art Area. Our Art Area Honors policy is as follows:

1. Art Area Honors, like HISD Academic Honors, will be based on the senior mid-year transcript which is available in late January.
2. To be eligible for Art Area Honors, the student must have been a student at Kinder HSPVA for all 4 years.
3. To be eligible for Art Area Honors, the student must have participated in the same Art Area for at least the final 3 years.
4. Using the numerical grades in all Art classes required for the Art Area certificate, the Art GPA will be calculated to 6 decimal places
5. Students in each Art Area whose Art GPAs are in the highest 15% will be recognized as earning Art Area Honors.
6. From among the previously mentioned highest 15%, students in each Art Area whose Art GPAs are in the highest 5% will be recognized as earning Art Area Highest Honors.
7. As is HISD policy with Academic Honors, if the calculation using the percent results in a fraction (e.g. 15% of 28 Vocal seniors = 4.2 Honors students from among Vocal seniors), the number of students included will be the next whole number (e.g. 4.2 -> 5).
8. Regalia for Art Area Honors includes red cord(s) to be worn at graduation.
 - a. Single red cord for Art Area Honors
 - b. Double red cord tied together for Art Area Highest Honors
9. Honorees will keep their cords after graduation.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT FULL TIME FACULTY

Mr. Shannon Carter – Director of Choral Studies
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