



# Weekly Update



## Week of

**3/18/26-3/20/26  
&  
3/23/26-3/27/26**



## News of the Week

**Please see the grade levels for updates.**

**All dates and ensembles are listed on the orchestra website.**



## Connections Schedule

**B A B  
A B A B A**

## ★ Reminders★

Students should be practicing at home at least 3-4 days a week for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. Practice is the students homework in orchestra and is expected of ALL students.

**[WWW.RHMSORCHESTRA.ORG](http://WWW.RHMSORCHESTRA.ORG)**

*Congratulations!*

to the

RHMS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

For Earning a

**SUPERIOR RATING**

at the

Georgia Music Educators Association

District 1 Large Group Performance Evaluation



2025 Exemplary Performance Award Recipient

# Announcements



Connections Schedules can be found on the RHMS Official Website. The schedule I use is the schedule listed on the school's master calendar.

## **This Week in Orchestra:**

- **Monday, March 23- Chamber Rehearsal 3-5pm**

### **METHOD BOOKS**

Please note, no one should purchase a physical method book. We will be using MusicFirst at home which contains the method book. If you are experience issues with internet and need a physical book please let me know so that we can make arrangements.

### **STAY INFORMED!**

Please download the Band App and join our group. This is a new account; returning members' parents will need to join the new group. **THIS IS ONLY FOR PARENTS. NO STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED AND WILL BE REMOVED.**

### **PARENT GOOGLE FOLDER**

Find all forms, handbooks, and program materials in this folder. Check the link on the contact page.

### **FUNRAISING:**

None for January

### **MY MUSIC OFFICE**

Please make sure your account information is up-to-date!

### **MUSICFIRST**

Students should be using MusicFirst for at home assignments and their method books. I understand the interest in purchasing a physical book, but please remember that students will soon be required to submit their assignments only through MusicFirst.

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Parents,**

**At this point in the year, I am noticing that many students are not practicing at a level that meets course expectations. Regular practice is an essential extension of what we do in class and is necessary for students to make meaningful progress on their instrument. Without consistent effort at home, it becomes difficult for students to keep up with the demands of the music. I am asking for your support in helping establish a consistent practice routine at home each week. Even a small amount of focused, daily practice can make a significant difference in your child's growth and confidence.**

**Thank you for partnering with me to support your student's success.**

**Mr. Mock**

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# 6th Grade



## THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

### Practice Material

**Students will be continuing working on**

**Continue working on tuning and ear training  
in class.**

**Students will continue working on  
“Abstraction” Focusing on the second half of  
the piece.**

**Students will begin working on “Star of  
Country Down”**

**Students should be using MusicFirst at home  
to access their method book.**

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#### **TESTS:**

**None this week.**

# 7th Grade



## THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

### Practice Material

#### Both Habits Books found in MusicFirst

2. Even Bow Distribution - start slow with a full bow then speed it up.
3. Dynamics and Steady Tempo - at home you need to use a metronome to work on it.
  5. String Crossings
  6. String Crossing Etude
  7. Variations
  12. Double Stops
  16. First Two Finger Patterns
  121. D Major Thirds

Students should continue working on “Time Machine”

Students will receive “Momentum” this week. the expectation is that students learn their notes and rhythms by the end of next week.

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TESTS:

None this week

# 8th Grade (A-Day)



## THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

### Practice Material

#### A-Day

Habits book can be found in Music First

- 7. Variations - pay close attention to what part of the bow you will use.
- 9. Full Bow Strokes - again, pay close attention to the part of the bow and also use a full bow stroke on the quarter notes.
- 10. Loch Lomond
- 12. Double Stops
- 16. First Two Finger Patterns
- 17. Velocity Drill
- 18. Finger Pattern Drill #1
- 19. Bourree
- 109. C Major Thirds (lower octave)
- 115. G Major Thirds (lower octave)
- 121. D Major Thirds (lower octave)

Continue work on “5<sup>th</sup> Symphony,”  
“Spring”

Focus is dynamics.

**Students will be expected to use MusicFirst.**

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TESTS:

# 8th Grade (B-day)



## THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

### Practice Material

#### B-Day

Habits book can be found in Music First

2. Even Bow Distribution - start slow with a full bow then speed it up.
3. Dynamics and Steady Tempo - at home you need to use a metronome to work on it.
5. String Crossings
6. String Crossing Etude
7. Variations
12. Double Stops
16. First Two Finger Patterns
121. D Major Thirds

Students should be working on “Time Machine”

Students will receive “Momentum” this week. the expectation is that students learn their notes and rhythms by the end of next week.

**Students will be expected to use MusicFirst.**

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TESTS:

# Chamber Orchestra



## NEXT REHEARSAL

**Monday, March 23 3-5pm**

**Students should be working on “Scheherazade” and will receive a new piece at that rehearsal.**

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### Chamber Rehearsal Schedule

**Please review the calendar sent out the First Week of School.**

**Chamber Concert Schedule  
May 4 - 6pm at RHMS**

# May 4 Concert Update



## Change of Venue Notice

**I want to inform you of an important update regarding our upcoming orchestra concert scheduled for May 4.**

**Administration has asked that we move the concert location to Richmond Hill Middle School. While this change is outside of our control, we are moving forward in full support of the decision and will ensure the performance remains a first-class experience for our students and families.**

**Please note that the concert will still take place on May 4, but it will now be held at the Middle School. Additional logistical details (arrival time, call time, etc.) will be shared soon.**

**I understand that changes can be inconvenient and disappointing to some; I appreciate your flexibility and continued support of our orchestra program. Our students have been working very hard, and we are looking forward to showcasing their growth and achievements.**

**Thank you for your understanding.**

# MusicFirst Directions



**Go to the RHMS website.**

**Click on Classlink**

**Students will log into their school account**

**Click on the MusicFirst App in Classlink**

**Once in MusicFirst, students will click the software tab and then “PracticeFirst”**

**Search for the appropriate book or piece and practice away!**

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**The expectation is that students are using this program at home for their practice sessions. All levels will have assignments posted in this platform at some point during the year.**

**There will be a portfolio created by each student which will check for mastery of skills based upon the GADOE Music Standards.**

**There will be graded assignments built into this platform as well. Students are encouraged to submit their best recordings for the grade.**



## Orchestra Communication Tools

### Website

[www.rhmsorchestra.org](http://www.rhmsorchestra.org)

Our website is the primary location for all things orchestra. You will find our handbook, policies, and up-to-date information on the main page and under the student/parent resource tabs. This is also where the official calendar is located. We recommend you check this site before contacting the orchestra staff. Most answers can be found in the various documents located on the site.

### Band App

The band app will be our text based communication tool for the 2025-2026 school year. Please download the app and follow the QR code to access our group.



### My Music Office

My Music Office (MMO) is our primary tool for storing your information and communicating via email. You will be provided a student account and temporary password at the beginning of the year. We ask that you update your contact information so that you can stay up-to-date on what is happening in the orchestra. The emails from PowerSchool will be loaded, if that email is not one you check often, we recommend updating this information in MMO. Emails will be seen as "My Music Office" NOT Mr. Mock's school email. The email may be sent to a junk folder. If you need to contact Mr. Mock directly, please use [jmock@bryan.k12.ga.us](mailto:jmock@bryan.k12.ga.us).

### Handbook, Class Syllabus, Rubrics, and Additional Forms



Scan this QR code to access the Parent Google Drive.