

THSO Practice Points and Awards Requirements

Practice Charts and Points:

Practice charts are due each class and must have a parent's signature. Students earn points for the following things:

Attendance – 5 points per class

Practice – 6 points per hour of practice (i.e. 1 point per 10 minutes). Class time during THSO rehearsal cannot be counted as practice time. This time is already covered in the 5 points for attending rehearsal. *Students in private lessons may count 60 minutes per week of practicing their private lesson material towards earning THSO Orchestra Class points.*

Consistent Practice – An extra 10 points per week will be awarded to students who practice on six different days of the week.

Concert Attendance – 20 points for attending any concert or recital that features string instruments and 15 points for any other classical music concert or recital (FSU, any local symphonies, high school or middle school, TSO dress rehearsals). Concert days/times can be found online or by calling the school offices. Students must bring a program from the concert to class to receive points. If the concert or dress rehearsal does not include a program, students may take a cell phone photo and text (678-662-0211) or email in place of the program.

Tallahassee Homeschool String Orchestra Performances – 50 points each for participating in the Christmas and Spring concerts

Outside Performances – 20 points for participation in any other performance using the student's string instrument. This includes Tallahassee Youth Orchestra performances, private studio recitals, and playing in a formal setting for classes or extra-curricular groups. Playing for immediate family is enthusiastically encouraged but does not count as a formal setting.

Theory Homework – 5 points per completed theory assignment. Poco Players and Preludio are often given coloring sheets to help them work on basic note-reading, and theory books and worksheets will be used for students in the other orchestras. These points will be added automatically when the assignments are received.

* Practice charts must be completed, signed, and turned in each week to be counted. It is the students' responsibility to place the practice chart in the box at the front of the class and to get a new one for the next week. If a student forgets to bring their practice chart to class, their parent may bring it before the entire orchestra day ends or may scan and email it by 12:00 pm on the Thursday after class. No practice charts may be turned in any later than this. If a student is ill or out of town (or otherwise must miss class), practice chart scans are due via email or cell phone photo (678-662-0211) by 12:00 pm on the Thursday after rehearsal. ***Late or unsigned practice charts cannot be counted towards THSO points.***

* Below are the point requirements for each level of award, as well as a suggested method of obtaining the points. The activities listed for each level of award are a suggestion and serve as a basis for determining the number of points for each award, but they are not an exclusive requirement. If a student must miss an additional class, forgets to practice one day, or even forgets to hand in their chart, there is no cause for alarm. The points can be made up by doing extra activities. ***These point requirements are for the entire school year (August-May).***

Arioso

Blue Ribbon – 1000 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 30 minutes per day, six days per week for all 30 weeks, missing only one class, playing in both Christmas and Spring concerts, attending two outside concerts, and performing one time on your orchestra instrument in a formal setting other than the Christmas and Spring concerts

Red Ribbon – 700 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 20 minutes per day, getting the extra points for doing it six days per week for 18 of the weeks and not getting them for 12 of the weeks, missing only one, playing in both the Christmas and Spring concerts, and attending one outside concert

White Ribbon – 470 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 20 minutes per day five days a week, missing only two classes, playing in both the Christmas and Spring concerts, and attending one outside concert

Sinfonia Allegro, Accelerando, and Da Capo Strings

Blue Ribbon – 850 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 20 minutes per day, six days per week for all 30 weeks, missing only one class, playing in both Christmas and Spring concerts, attending two outside concerts, and performing one time on your instrument in a formal setting other than the Christmas and Spring concerts

Red Ribbon – 700 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 20 minutes per day, getting the extra points for doing it six days per week for 18 of the weeks and not getting them for 12 of the weeks, missing only one class, playing in both the Christmas and Spring concerts, and attending one outside concert

White Ribbon – 470 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 20 minutes per day five days a week, missing only two classes, playing in both the Christmas and Spring concerts, and attending one outside concert

Poco Players and Preludio

Blue Ribbon – 700 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 15 minutes per day, six days per week for all 30 weeks, missing only one class, playing in the Christmas and Spring concerts, and attending two outside concerts

Red Ribbon – 600 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 15 minutes per day, getting the extra points for doing it six days per week for 30 of the weeks and not getting them for five of the weeks, missing only one class, playing in both the Christmas and Spring concerts, and attending one outside concert

White Ribbon – 350 points

Suggestions for reaching this goal: Practicing 60 minutes per week, missing only two classes, playing in both the Christmas and Spring concerts, and attending one outside concert

Alternative Assignments for Travel:

In the event that a family is travelling, an alternative travel assignment may be completed to earn orchestra points. Students may spend their practice time on focused listening from the *Essential Elements* CD (while visually following along with the music) or other orchestral music, chamber (string quartet, etc.) or solo music that includes strings. Students should record on the practice chart the names of the pieces and the composers, along with the length of time spent listening. Up to 15 minutes a day are allowed for focused listening only.