



McEachern High School

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August 11, 2011

Dear Orchestra Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Orchestra Division of the McEachern H.S. Music Department. For those of you not familiar with me, let me share a little of my background with you. My degrees are from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana (Bachelor of Music, Area Majors in Strings and Woodwinds, 1973), Loyola University New Orleans (Master of Music Degree in Cello Performance, 1978), and the University of Southern Mississippi (Ph.D., Music Education, 1992). After thirty-seven years of teaching piano, chorus, band, and orchestra, I am delighted to be teaching here at McEachern. This is my twentieth year of teaching at McEachern, and I served two years as Division Chairman of the Gifted and Talented Department from 2001-2003. I was honored to receive the designation National Board Certified Teacher in 2007. In addition to performing as a freelance musician in the Atlanta area, I perform with the Cobb Symphony, Atlanta Lyric Theater, and have a private cello studio in Marietta.

In the past nineteen years we have increased our Orchestra enrollment from 32 students in 1992 to over 140 students. There are now three Orchestra classes, all who perform together frequently during the school year, both on and off campus. We are honored to reside in one of the premier performance venues in our country, the J. Alton Keith Performing Arts Center, and frequently invite guest performers and conductors to share their musical gifts with us.

Attendance at performances is mandatory (see the Student Manual), or the grade may be seriously affected. Students are encouraged to undertake private study with qualified teachers who come to our school and teach lessons during Orchestra class time. This is an unbelievable resource for us and I hope more students will take advantage of it. The uniform policies will be discussed the first few weeks of school, and girls will be measured for the Orchestra Dress (\$20 rental/cleaning fee) during class in August. Orchestra fee is \$50 for the year and is due ASAP; your Summer Camp payment already covers this expense.

As you know, it is difficult to do many of the things necessary to keep a program going by yourself. Please support the McEachern Orchestra Guild and their activities throughout the year. Our activities include the GMEA Solo and Ensemble festival in November and the GMEA Orchestra Festival in February. Please support all fundraising efforts initiated by them. Finally, go over the Orchestra Handbook with your child and return the permission forms on the back pages to me by the designated date. Feel free to contact me here at school (770.222.3710), x265) or by email (DrMoonT@hotmail.com). Class information can be found on my page on the school website; it is updated frequently and is your best source for information during the year. You can find a link to my blog, Harmony for Humanity on my page on the McEachern webpage (go to Fine Arts, then Orchestra) as well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Mooney

*Director of Orchestras
McEachern High School*