



Musical Notes from Ms. Mather Tech High School Orchestra Director 2018-2019

"I can't live one day without hearing music, playing it, studying it, or thinking about it." ~Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Greetings and Welcome all Tech Orchestra Students and Families! As I enter my ninth year of teaching here at Tech High School, I reflect on the many wonderful memories that have been made during my time as the Director of Orchestras—memories of students, families, trips, friendships, hard-work and perseverance, and, of course, doing what we do best every day: making music together! This year's Class of 2019 will even have an extra-special memory of being Tech's final graduating class in its original building. If these walls could talk here at Tech, as the old saying goes, I'm sure they would share many stories of how our students have been inspired, encouraged, and have gone on to discover their passions in life. And although new walls are currently forming at the new Tech High School, these old walls that still surround us here at Tech have been serving a greater purpose all of these years; they do not enclose or limit us but rather support and gather a group of young musicians who want to create a common sound...a united voice in music! *If these walls could talk...* I know that they would express great pride in all that they have joined together over the years and I am confident that we will continue to make many more wonderful memories this year!

As we start the 2018-2019 school year, we have another exciting year planned for our orchestra students. Our Tech Chamber Orchestra students will already be busy preparing to play at the Southside Orchestra Instrument Night on September 11th, the NHS Induction Ceremony the evening of September 17th, and the Homecoming Coronation on September 26th, in addition to other scheduled contests and events throughout the school year. The Tech Orchestras, along with the entire HS Music Department, will be joining together to present a Music Department Concert on Monday, October 15th featuring all of our wonderful Tech music students! This will lead right in to our Fall Musical of "Shrek" in November, followed by our Winter Orchestra Concert in December. Our Tech Music Department will also be traveling to New York City from February 28th-March 5th. Keep an eye open for further NYC Trip information this fall. Along with all of these wonderful events, there are many more fun concerts, contests, and events throughout the school year, too! *(Just a reminder that orchestra students are expected to attend/perform in all scheduled performances and events.)*

After taking in all of our music calendar activities for the year, please take time to read and review your **Tech Orchestra Handbook** (located online at: <http://tech-orchestras.weebly.com> or via the PDF attachment in your Skyward Email), taking careful note of classroom expectations, performances, contests, and other special dates to add to your own calendars. Please also note that all students may need to purchase some of the listed classroom materials. *(Classroom donations are always greatly appreciated!)* After reading and reviewing, please ***sign, date, and turn in your Tech Music Agreement Form***, (located at the back of this handbook), to me by Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

If there is ever anything that I can help you with this year or if you ever just want to say a quick 'hello,' feel free to contact me via email at kara.mather@isd742.org or by phone at 320-252-2231, ext. 3453. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. Here's to another wonderful school year!

Musically yours,

Kara Mather
Director of Orchestras
Tech High School & Talahi Community School

