



b ■ sharp
youth music program

B Sharp Youth Music Handbook



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To our B Sharp musician and family:

Welcome to B Sharp Youth Music! You are embarking on a journey with an exceptional musical organization. Whether you are a newcomer or a returning member, by joining the B Sharp Youth Music Program, your musician has a wide-range of opportunities: life skills training, pathways into new passions, community field trips, academic support, and of course, learning to create, perform, and explore the limitless world of music.

The orchestra is at the center of our program because it embodies a collaborative and caring community where each child is essential as an individual orchestra member, yet no child can play a symphony alone. We are excited to have a program that guides our musicians from elementary school, through middle school, high school, and beyond! Our ensembles perform publically in different venues for a variety of audiences! The purpose of this handbook is to assist you as you learn about the B Sharp Youth Music Program policies and procedures.

Please use this handbook as a guide as you begin to:

- # *Understand the B Sharp Youth Music Program's goals, structure, and inspiration*
- # *Recognize the family and student commitment*
- # *Understand the benefits of our intensive program*
- # *Get to know our team*
- # *Understand the details of our policies and procedures and their importance to the success of the program*

We hope that the B Sharp Youth Music Handbook is a valuable resource for you and your child. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

The B Sharp Administration Team

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GET SOCIAL WITH B SHARP YOUTH MUSIC!

Check out our website: <https://bsharpkids.org/>



B Sharp Youth Music Program (main program page)
B Sharp Men 'N Position & #sharpmoms
(organization for our parents)



B Sharp Vision

Harmonizing communities through music.

B Sharp Mission

To foster positive development of young musicians through emphasis on academic achievement, understanding community and developing positive life skills and exemplary behavior through music.

B Sharp Goals

- Create a place of safety, fun, high aspiration and joy
- Love the child first, music second
- Develop positive life skills
- Embrace diversity
- Treat every child with dignity and respect
- Build academic success
- Show how good choices lead to success

- Create an atmosphere of spontaneity and flexibility
- Demonstrate consistency in all things
- Build every child's confidence
- Teach passion first, precision later
- Model good leadership
- Encourage parent participation and advocacy
- Serve the community through music

What is the B Sharp Youth Music Program?

The B Sharp Youth Music Program, based in the heart of Como, is a free music education program based in Fort Worth. It is the only El Sistema-inspired music program in North Texas. El Sistema-inspired programs are unique to the community and culture of its participants and are a vehicle for social change through the teaching of music.

The Goff Family Foundation started B Sharp After School in August 2010 as an after-school opportunity that provides participating 2nd-5th graders with intensive music instruction and life skills training available to 2nd-5th graders. In 2013, B Sharp was named a FWISD Gold Seal Program of Choice (POC) at Como Elementary (now known as the Leadership Academy at Como Elementary). Currently in the B Sharp POC, there are classes available in Kindergarten-5th grade where students will receive a music-infused academic curriculum instruction and additional music and life skills instruction during the school day. In 2014, the B Sharp Youth Orchestra, an audition-based ensemble open to any FWISD MS/HS band or orchestra students, was added. The BSYO is comprised of the multiple levels of ensembles that rehearse together twice per week during the school year.

Each student in B Sharp benefits from a rich music curriculum that creates a caring, cooperative, and fun community. Students in the program also benefit from B Sharp Youth Music Program's academic support, creative outlets, parent engagement, and social/emotional focus. The instruments and the program are free to all participating students. B Sharp Youth Music embodies these core values: respect, responsibility, positive communication, and support.

COMMITMENT TO B SHARP YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM

The success of the B Sharp Youth Music Program is based on an intensive amount of instruction, so regular attendance is extremely important in order to receive the full benefits of the program, as well as participation in performances. It is our belief that this rigorous schedule will not only provide a setting for your child to be productive in and outside of school, but it will improve his/her academic and life skills by developing personal discipline, fostering a sense of responsibility, and instilling a sense of personal pride.

B SHARP AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

B Sharp family members will need to come to the assigned dismissal door to pick up your student at dismissal time.

- # All 2nd & 3rd grade students and ALL walkers will dismiss on Goodman Street at the PreK door
Walkers who need to cross Horne Street will be crossed by a B Sharp Admin Team member
- # All 4th & 5th grade students (including ALL siblings) will dismiss on Libbey Street near the portables
- # Any student not picked up by 5:45pm will move to B Sharp Office (Portable 6) to wait for their family member.

PICK-UP POLICY

It is critical that your child is picked up on time after each rehearsal, performance, and event. FWISD requires that all students are monitored while on district campuses. Membership in the B Sharp Youth Music Program depends on all parties fulfilling his/her responsibilities. Your child's membership will be reviewed if you are out of compliance. We have a "three strike" policy regarding pick up from B Sharp Youth Music regular program days/events.

Strike 1 – The first time your child is not picked up promptly. A B Sharp Admin Team member will contact you to let you know you have received your first "strike" and remind you of the policies/procedures.

Strike 2 – The second time your child is not picked up promptly. A B Sharp Admin Team member will contact you to let you know you have received your second "strike". A conference will be requested to review the policies/procedures.

Strike 3 – The third time your child is not picked up promptly. Your child may lose membership with B Sharp.

***Emergencies will be taken into consideration as long as a B Sharp Admin Team Member is contacted.**

ATTENDANCE

We are limiting the number of *unexcused* absences to three per semester. If your student exceeds three unexcused absences per semester, his/her membership will be reviewed. To receive an *excused* absence or *permission for an early release*, please contact a B Sharp Admin Team member **prior to the absence or early release** (or in case of illness, the day of the absence). If your student needs to miss several classes in a row for a reason outside of B Sharp programming, approval from a member of the B Sharp Admin Team must be given prior to the series of absences.

EXCUSED ABSENCES/EARLY RELEASE

To receive an excused absence or permission for an early release, please contact a member of the B Sharp Admin Team **prior** to the absence or in case of illness the day of the absence. The decision whether an absence is excused rests solely with the B Sharp Admin Team Member. Typically, student illness, family emergency, religious holidays, and school related activities are considered excused absences. If you must pick up your child early, it is imperative that you contact a B Sharp Admin Team member **prior** to 4:00pm.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Students who are interested and/or selected to participate in events/activities sponsored by a FWISD campus are granted permission to participate in that event/activity. These students are monitored by a FWISD faculty member and may return to B Sharp following the end of their event/activity.

PARTICIPATION IN NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Students who are interested in participating in events/activities not sponsored by FWISD but taking place on the campus (Good News Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.) are granted permission to participate in that particular event/activity. These students are not monitored by a faculty member and **MUST** be picked up *immediately following the end of said activity*. These students may not return to B Sharp at the end of their event/activity. B Sharp Youth Music is not responsible for students who choose to attend a non-school sponsored event/activity, although we do support participation in these events.

COMMUNICATION

The B Sharp Youth Music Program will deliver information to you regularly in the following ways:

- # Hard copy handouts delivered by your child. These handouts are also posted on our website.
- # Regular emails, including our e-newsletter (we need your current email address on file)
- # Our website – <https://bsharpkids.org> – make it a “favorite” on your internet browser
Includes our Calendar with ALL of our events!
- # Phone calls home (we need your current phone number on file)
- # Follow us on social media! (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube)

PARENT ENGAGEMENT GROUP

- # **B Sharp Men ‘N Position & #sharpmoms** is a group for all B Sharp role models (fathers/mothers, uncles/aunts, grandfathers/grandmothers, and guardians). Meetings are held in a round-table discussion format to encourage conversations about finding ways to help our sons and daughters be more successful at school and at home. All are welcome! If you are interested in receiving more information about B Sharp Men 'N Position & #sharpmoms, please contact Dorsey Griffin, Senior Program Coordinator.

OPPORTUNITIES

B Sharp Youth Music program will provide several opportunities for both students and families.

- # **Performance Opportunities** - At select times throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to perform for their families, peers, and members of the community. These performances will include concerts, special guest performances, and community events. We encourage all to attend these performances and share in the wonderful sense of pride and accomplishment that they foster in each student.
- # **Free Instruments** - B Sharp Youth Music and FWISD provide instruments for its students free of charge, on a loan basis. Before receiving an instrument, each student and his/her parent(s) must read and sign the B Sharp Youth Music Program Instrument/Equipment Loan Agreement.
- # **Cultivate Talents for Possible Scholarships** - Through this intense learning program our B Sharp students have the opportunity to achieve a high level of ability on their instrument. They will learn from our teachers and increase their chances for future music scholarships.
- # **Success and Achievement** – After one full year, each member of the B Sharp Youth Music Program will receive a special medal honoring his/her achievement and commitment to the B Sharp Youth Music Program. These medals will be worn at selected performances. In addition to the medal, students will have the opportunity to add to their medal ribbons by earning achievement pins for various items each year. The medals “live” at B Sharp until the student is promoted at the end of 5th grade.

THE B SHARP TEAM

The B Sharp Team includes B Sharp Teaching Artists, B Sharp POC Academic Teachers, and the B Sharp Administration “Admin” Team. You can find photos and bios of all B Sharp Team Members on our website.

- # **B Sharp Teaching Artists** are exceptional performing musicians and music educators with a vested interest in developing responsible young musicians and building the best music program and youth orchestra in Texas. Our teachers are observed and evaluated on a frequent basis to ensure they are providing your children with the highest quality music instruction.

- # **B Sharp POC (Program of Choice) Academic Teachers** are highly qualified FWISD classroom teachers who are interested in providing a music-infused academic learning environment for his/her students. These teachers work daily to tie the academic content back to music when a natural connection can be made.
- # **B Sharp Administration Team** leads and organizes all aspects of the B Sharp Youth Music Program. The Administration Team is your point of contact should questions/concerns arise. The team members of the B Sharp Admin Team are trained and highly qualified in their specific areas of expertise.

ACADEMIC POLICY

B Sharp students are expected to achieve and maintain strong grades. Excellence is not only emphasized in music but also in academics. Any student who is failing will need to consider participating in tutorial sessions. No pass, no play applies to all students in the B Sharp Youth Music Program. Students must be academically eligible to leave campus for special performances. Students will continue participation in the B Sharp After School Program and will participate in the Holiday and Spring Concert as part of our curriculum regardless of grades for the year.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

No student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity available through The B Sharp Youth Music Program, Inc. on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin.

BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

B Sharp Student Expectations

Be Safe
 Be Respectful
 Be Responsible
 Be Kind

Social Skills B Sharp Students Will Implement

Following Instructions
 Staying on Task
 Accepting Criticism or a Consequence
 Accepting “No” for an Answer
 Listening to Others
 Disagreeing Appropriately
 Getting the Teacher’s Attention

Student Consequences

Step 1 - Verbal Warning

Step 2 – Student loses opportunity to participate and moves to the appropriate *Behavior Reflection Area* to complete the *Reflection Area Activity Sheet*. Student should resume participation after 5 minutes (or less if ready to participate appropriately) at the B Sharp Team Member’s discretion.

(Kinder & 1st use the box. 2nd-5th use the desk. Both complete a Step 2 form to the best of their ability.)

Step 3 – Student receives a *Behavior Reflection Form* and completes it in the classroom. Once the *Behavior Reflection Form* is complete, student resumes participation. The *Behavior Reflection Form* is sent home with the student, and a copy is provided to the B Sharp Program Coordinator(s).

Non-compliance (no signed form returned) = automatic Friday School.

Three or more Step 2/Step 3 forms in one week = Friday School.

(Kinder & 1st complete the form to the best of their ability with assistance from a B Sharp Team member.)

Step 4 – Student is sent to a B Sharp Admin Team Member for an intervention. Previous steps received will be reviewed, and a determination will be made regarding an appropriate consequence, if necessary.

Parent communication will take place.



Handbook Rules and Regulations Acknowledgment Form

This form must be returned to a B Sharp Admin Team staff member and placed on file for participation with the B Sharp Youth Music Program.

PARENTS/FAMILY: Please read the following statement and sign below

I acknowledge receiving access to the B Sharp Youth Music Program Handbook and agree to accept responsibility for my child and his/her actions. I realize it takes cooperation from 100% of the students and parents for the B Sharp Youth Music Program to achieve success. I further understand that failure to follow the stated policies in this book or failure to follow instructions from the B Sharp Team could result in disciplinary action, which, at its most serious consequence, could lead to my child’s dismissal from the program. I accept my responsibility in supporting and assisting my child in living up to the responsibilities and obligations as outlined.

1

STUDENT NAME: _____

2

_____ **(Initial) PHOTO/MEDIA RELEASE**

The above-named minor child has my permission to be photographed and/or recorded by B Sharp Youth Music, FWISD, and/or news/media in conjunction with the programs related to B Sharp for any lawful purpose (print and/or electronic) without further notice to me. I also agree to hold harmless B Sharp Youth Music and its representatives from any claims or cause of action directly or indirectly related to photographing, videotaping, or audio taping of my child for any lawful purpose and to waive all monetary or other claims that might arise as a result of any lawful use of these materials. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the above-mentioned individual and am authorized to give permission and consent.

Transportation will be provided to various special events by bus or B Sharp Team member vehicle. Your signature below gives your approval for B Sharp Youth Music to provide transportation for your child when necessary.

To remain in compliance with the B Sharp Youth Music Program Pick Up Policy, please initial next to the option(s) below to indicate your transportation preference. Selecting an option below further confirms that you agree to fulfill your responsibility to the B Sharp Youth Music Program by providing safe and prompt transportation for your child.

3

_____ (Initial) I (or a guardian of my choosing) will pick up my child promptly following all B Sharp events.

_____ (Initial) I give my child permission to walk home immediately following all B Sharp events.

4

(Parent/Guardian Name – PRINTED)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

DID YOU COMPLETE ALL FOUR SECTIONS?!?