

# What's Going On???

## Some specifics for the Phil

### **A Working Knowledge**

At the high school level, we place continued focus on certain refinements of string technique, not just “does the note come out?” Here are some of the things we will be focusing on:

- Scales: C, G, D, F, Bb major; a, d, e, g minor for Region auditions (Aug.-Sept.), then continuing with harder scales up to 4 sharps and 4 flats for mastery
- Bowing techniques: staccato/spiccato, brush stroke (Mozart stroke), louré, marcato/détaché, jeté/ricochet
- Bow control and tone production (sostenuto, tenuto, legato)
- Reading, notating and composition skills (i.e. music theory)
- Intonation, intonation, intonation...listening skills, chord formation, pitch adjustment

**Grading** procedures are outlined in the Orchestra Handbook. The handbook also includes the dates for 2010-2011. Mark these dates on the calendar and post them somewhere parents will be sure to look! Playing tests will come from technique books and class music. Quizzes will come from technique books, class music and supplemental materials (worksheets, handouts, reading excerpts, etc.).

### **Seating**

Seating will be rotated during the year as much as possible. Early seating auditions will be given so students know where they stand with others in their section, but seating will continue to rotate. Final seating comes a few weeks before the concert date with no rotation.

### **Combined Classes**

The Philharmonic and the Concert Orchestra are not leveled – they are a class split to maintain a high level of individual attention for each student and to keep the classes more manageable in size. For certain concerts, the two classes will join forces. Seating will be a joint audition scored by both Mr. Williams and Mrs. Doyle (the Concert Orchestra director).

**Practice** is important, no matter what you do in life. This year students will have practice partners/groups and will have 15 to 20 minutes each day to practice what they need to practice – techniques, audition spots, difficult sections of music – whatever is

needed for the student. This is NOT by any means free time, and will be closely monitored.

**Region Orchestra** auditions are highly encouraged for Philharmonic students. The benefits of auditioning are invaluable, especially if a student has never experienced a high-level audition, and can serve to prepare students for college auditions. Please consider auditioning this year. Auditions are Oct. 2. More information can be found at [www.sorchestra.net](http://www.sorchestra.net). Click on the **Region Orchestra** link on the left.

**Solo and Ensemble** participation is required of every student in the Philharmonic. It is for a grade. Students have the choice of performing for a judge in the actual Festival (April 29-30), or performing for the class the week of the Festival (April 25-29). With either choice, students will be graded based on points received using the SCMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival scoring sheet, not based on rating. Students may view the scoring form at [www.sorchestra.net](http://www.sorchestra.net). Click on the **Solo and Ensemble** link on the left.