

2011-2012 WSHSB Placement Auditions

SYMPHONIC BAND

We do not recommend students skip over a band level. However, if you choose to try to do so, we will not prohibit it.

If you wish to join Symphonic Band for the first time as a new member you need to contact the director for particulars.

If you are currently in Concert Junior Band you must prepare an audition for all three bands – Concert Junior Band, Concert Senior Band and Symphonic Band. Each audition must be on a separate video.

If you are currently in Concert Senior Band and want to audition for Symphonic Band, you must prepare an audition for both Concert Senior Band **AND** Symphonic Band. Each audition must be on a separate video.

If you are currently in Symphonic Band, you need only audition for Symphonic Band.

NEW MEMBERS' NOTE: You are also invited and encouraged to come along with your parent(s) to the Parents' & New Members' meeting in September. See the **CALENDAR** webpage for the exact date and time for this meeting as well as for the first band practice.

AUDITIONING FOR A PARTICULAR BAND DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE IN THAT BAND. You will be placed in a band level based on your proficiency and the needs within each section and band. **Membership in the WSHSB is by audition only, Cadets (beginners) excluded. Those who do not submit an audition video will not receive music and will not be considered a member of the band.**

What We're Looking For

Multiple things determine a student's chances of being invited into Symphonic Band

- 1) Proficiency of player
- 2) Musical needs/balance of the band
- 3) For current members, the following six points are considered when determining chair assignments:
 - Regular attendance
 - Practice times
 - Spirit of service to band
 - Attitude/demeanor
 - Performance at rehearsals and sectionals
 - Overall leadership abilities

We realize it is very difficult to play everything perfectly. Part of being a good performer or "showman" is to keep going, despite mistakes. A solid performance, incorporating the following aspects is more important than playing all the correct notes with incorrect rhythms, tempos, articulation, etc.

Musical aspects that will be considered when evaluating a performance are

- Note accuracy
- Correct rhythms **and** tempos
- **Note** - Avoid the tendency to slow down or stop when a difficult passage is encountered. Stay with the beat. Do not let the metronome simply be "white noise" in the background while you play at a different or uneven tempo. Weakness in playing at the correct rhythm and/or tempo is often what prevents one from getting a higher placement.
- Continue to play at tempo through mistakes
- Articulation, which includes things like tonguing, accents, staccatos, correct phrasing and slurs
- Dynamics (applies to both winds and percussion)
- Tone
- Intonation (playing in tune)

FYI – If two students are identical in all musical aspects, the one playing at a faster tempo will have an edge. Do not play at a faster tempo and sacrifice your accuracy or another musical aspect.

SYMPHONIC BAND AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

(Instructions for BOTH percussion and wind)

For recording

- At the beginning of the recording clearly state your first and last name and announce for which band and instrument you are auditioning.
- If you are not interested in being 1st chair, assuming a leadership position and playing solos, please say so at the beginning of your recording. There is much expected of a principle player.
- Announce each selection before playing e.g.; *Bb* chromatic scale, passage name, etc.
- **Everything must be played with a metronome at the designated tempo where specified.**
- VERY IMPORTANT – You may choose to record parts of your audition on different days or at different times. However, there is to be no break or editing within any passage/exercise/scale. If you make a mistake or stop within a passage, etc., leave the video running and pick-up where you left off. Points will be deducted for breaks in the recording, other than at measured rests. One or two measures of rest should be counted out on the video. Where there are three or more measures of rest, leave the video running, pause playing and announce, “I am continuing at measure ____.” Resume playing at that measure. **While making your audition video if you record any passage/exercise/scale more than once you must edit that video to a final video with only one take of each audition requirement.**
- AUDITION VIDEOS MUST BE AT THE DIRECTOR’S HOME BY 9PM, AUGUST 11, 2011.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WINDS (percussion requirements follow winds’)

1. Play the complete chromatic scale for your instrument,

(Chromatic scale fingering chart is at the back of the Essential Element 2000 books)

Tongue up and slur down. Tempo = 120, two notes to each beat.

2. Scales - Part 2, No. 1 exercise from the book

Unisonal Scales, Chords & Rhythmic Studies for Bands (instrument specific)

Compiled and edited by William C White, published by Carl Fischer

(If you have any difficulty locating these books, we know they can be ordered through JW Pepper, in Carol Stream, phone 630-462-0787. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery.

*For additional resources see the “Music and Instrument Stores” document on **Forms/Documents**.)*

- **Metronome set to minimum of 100, two sixteenth notes to each beat.** Playing at an even, manageable speed throughout is more important than a faster tempo.
- Play from beginning to end as a complete piece. Do not tape measure by measure and do not stop after each line. Points will be deducted for editing within the exercise.
- The correct place to breathe is after the eighth note.
- If there are parts that exceed your range, you should perform those parts an octave lower.

3. This requirement is for FLUTES and BRASS ONLY

Demonstrate ability to:

- **Double tongue** - Choose a note and repeat it, playing sixteen - 16th notes per measure @ quarter note = 112 or faster, for four (4) measures
- **Triple tongue** - choose a note and play repeated triplets, one triplet per beat, four sets per measure, @ quarter note = 120 or faster, for 4 measures.

4. Audition sheet music for all Concert Senior and Symphonic: To be picked up at the director’s home in Winfield starting **July 13, 9 AM.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR PERCUSSION

IMPORTANT REMINDER - *When making percussion roster assignments for current members, one's ability to play proper dynamics in all ranges, will be considered*

1. Bells – Same requirements as **WINDS #1 and 2** above, chromatic scale and Part 2, No.1 exercise from Unisonal Scales, Chords & Rhythmic Studies for Bands (instrument specific).

2. Audition sheet music for Bells and Snares (sheet music for snares or other drums specified by director, TO BE PLAYED ON PADS) for all Concert Senior and Symphonic: To be picked up at the director's home in Winfield starting **July 13, 2011, 9 AM.**