

2017-2018 WSHSB Placement Auditions CONCERT JUNIOR BAND

If you are currently in Concert Junior Band and want to stay there, **OR** you wish to join Concert Junior Band for the first time as a new member, you need audition for Concert Junior Band only.

NEW MEMBERS' NOTE: All new members are required to come along with your parent(s) to the **Overview and Orientation** meeting in mid-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. Also, one's ability to commit to/attend band will be taken into greater consideration in roster placement. **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.**

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR CADETS AND FIRST YEAR JUNIOR PERCUSSIONISTS - For a Cadet (beginner) percussionist, the focus is on developing rhythms and skills on bells. However, there must be equivalent time spent doing the same on snare, bass, and other percussion instruments. Therefore, it is expected of Cadet percussion students, who pass the Junior audition, to attend Cadet band for a second concert season, September through May, in addition to attending Junior band rehearsals.

This serves a two-fold purpose. Because Junior percussionists play a variety of percussion instruments their time on drums is limited. Playing with the Cadet Band they play other instruments beside bells which further develops their rhythmic reading skills. While doing so they provide the necessary drum beat while the new Cadets learn to play the bells.

What We're Looking For

We realize it is very difficult to play everything perfectly, especially for those with less experience. 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)

For current members, the following six points are also considered when determining chair assignments:

- Regular attendance with minimal to no absences
- Practice times
- Spirit of service to the band
- Attitude/demeanor
- Performance at rehearsals and sectionals
- Overall leadership abilities

CONCERT JUNIOR AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

(Instructions for BOTH percussion and wind)

For recording

- Every audition must be COMPLETELY NEW for 2017-2018 including ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS as defined within each audition.
- 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, please say so at the beginning of your recording. There is much expected of a 1st chair player such as assuming a leadership position, playing solos, leading sectionals and more.
- 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 ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017 BY 5 PM.** In order to be considered for a ranked chair position your audition must be turned in on time, by the deadline. If you fail to do so, there will be penalties at the director’s discretion.
- We are aware YouTube uploading can take as much as 48 hours or more. There may be power outages, computer failures, equipment issues or other unforeseen problems. To avoid missing the deadline, do not wait until the last days before auditions are due to finalize your recordings.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WINDS (percussion requirements follow winds’)

All requirements are from **ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS for Band, BOOK 1 “Gold”** (instrument specific). (Or you can use Essential Elements 2000, Book 1, the older title, which has the same contents.)

*If you have any difficulty locating this book we know they can be ordered online through JW Pepper. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. For additional resources see the “Music and Instrument Stores” document on **Forms/Documents**.*

Requirements 1, 2 and 4 are to be played with metronome tempo at one quarter note = 88 or faster

1) Page 33, exercise 174

“Chromatic scale”, Half-Steppin’

2) Page 35, exercise 181

Essential Elements Quiz - Scale Counting Conquest

3) Page 38, exercise #185,

Performance Spotlight Solo

Play the second ending WITH NO REPEATS

PLAY with metronome **AT YOUR SELECTED TEMPO** – please state tempo on video

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

4) Pages 42 and 43 - PLAY (do not clap) the complete rhythm line for measures listed below.

Metronome again set to 88 or faster

Play lines beginning with measures: 37, 45, 49, 53

Play as if one continuous song. Rest four beats between each line

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*

All exercises are from ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS for Band, BOOK 1 "Gold" (instrument specific). (Or you can use Essential Elements 2000, Book 1, the older title, which has the same contents.)

*If you have any difficulty locating this book we know they can be ordered online through JW Pepper. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. For additional resources see the "Music and Instrument Stores" document on **Forms/Documents**.*

BELLS – play on bells - Requirements 1, 2 and 3 are to be played with metronome tempo at one quarter note = 88 or faster

1) Page 33, exercise 174

Chromatic scale, "Half-Steppin' "

2) Page 35, exercise 181

Essential Elements Quiz - Scale Counting Conquest

3) Page 38, exercise 185

Can Can measure 30 to the end

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

SNARE - Play on drum pad

1) Pages 42 and 43, measures 37-64, minimum tempo, quarter note = 120 (ideally) or faster

Play as if one continuous song. Play each line. Rest four beats between each line. Continue with the next line. Do not stop until reaching measure 64, even if mistakes are made.

2) Demonstrate the following rudiments

(Note: Perform as closely as possible to the demonstrations on the Vic Firth website using this link → [Vic Firth Percussion Rudiments](#).

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- 1. Single stroke roll
- 16. Single paradiddle
- 21. Flam accent

3) Page 38, exercise 185

Can Can measure 30 to the end

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