

2024-2025 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. Adult helpers do not need to audition for Junior Band.

NEW MEMBERS' NOTE: All new members are required to accompany your parent(s) to the **Overview and Orientation** meeting sometime in September, stay tuned. Once set, our online **CALENDAR** will give the exact date, time and location 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.

REMINDER for Adult Helpers – no audition required for Cadet or Junior band. Adult helpers wishing to move up to Senior or Symphonic need to produce a one-time, acceptable audition.

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

Multiple things determine a student's placement

- 1) Proficiency of player.
- 2) Musical needs/balance of the band
- 3) 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

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.

Points are deducted for every error. Musical aspects that will be considered when evaluating a performance are

- Note accuracy
- Correct rhythms and tempos - **Points will be deducted for not using and setting a metronome.**
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)

CONCERT JUNIOR AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

(Instructions for BOTH percussion and wind)

For recording

- **DO** Stand on the floor or sit on a solid chair and use a music stand.
- **DO NOT** set the music on a table, in your case, or have another person hold it while you perform. Do not sit on a sofa, soft chair or bed.
- **Recommended Camera Angle -**
Record audition from the side and **NOT** from the front. Playing directly into the microphone can distort the sound. The director assesses embouchure and fingering/hand technique during auditions, and side-view recordings are the best format from which to observe these. Tubas, be sure to film on the side where the student's face can be seen.
- Every audition must be **COMPLETELY NEW** for 2024-2025 including **ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS** as defined within each audition. **Do not skip any elements. Points will be deducted for missing elements.**
- At the beginning of the recording clearly state your first and last name and announce for which band and instrument you are auditioning.
- **First Chair Expectations** - If a student is not prepared or willing to accept the following degrees of responsibility, he should **say so at the BEGINNING of his video**. Earning first chair/principal confers upon a player an important title. But there are responsibilities that come with the position. The director and band rely on each principal to take on leadership for his section. These expectations increase commensurately with each band level. As lead he is expected to –
 - Attend band regularly with **minimal to no absences**
 - Be the most skilled performer in the section and an example of "how to do it" to the rest of the section
 - Play solos
 - Be called upon to "model" a difficult passage for the rest of the section
 - Be responsible for leading sectionals as needed
- 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. Points will be deducted for not using and setting a metronome.**
- 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. Include ALL elements in the same email.**
- **ATTENTION:** Set the YouTube audition link to **UNLISTED**. **DO NOT** set it to private or public. Send to director's **REGULAR** email address. **DO NOT** send through the WSHSB website contact form.
- **ONLY auditions on YouTube will be accepted. ALL AUDITION VIDEOS MUST BE EMAILED AND RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR BY 5 PM ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 or they will be considered late.** In order to be considered for a ranked chair position your audition must be received on time, by the deadline. If you fail to do so, there will be penalties at the director's discretion.
NOTICE: No auditions will be accepted on external storage devices like DVDs, flash drives, SD cards, etc.
- The director is aware YouTube uploading can take as much as a few hours or more, depending on internet speed, etc. Additionally, there may be power outages, computer failures, equipment issues or other unforeseen problems. To avoid missing the deadline, do not wait until the last moment to upload your YouTube recording.

*If you have any difficulty locating the book mentioned below
you might order online from JW Pepper. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery.
For additional resources see the "Music and Instrument Stores" document on **Forms/Documents**.*

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.)

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.

Requirements 1, 2 and 4 are to be played **with metronome tempo at one quarter note = 88 or state tempo on video if 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 – and state tempo on video

4) Page 43 - PLAY (do not clap) the complete rhythm line for measures listed below. Play with

metronome set to one quarter note = 88 (Or if you are able to play it faster, with accuracy, do so and state your tempo)

Play each entire line that begins with measure: 37, 41, 45, 49

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 with **proper dynamics** in all ranges, will be considered.*

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.

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**.*

NOTE: Music for bells is TO BE PLAYED ON BELLS.

Music for all other percussion instruments, snare, bass, etc. is TO BE PLAYED ON PADS.

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

DRUM PAD

1) Rhythms, minimum tempo, one quarter note = 120 (ideally) or faster

PLAY with metronome AT YOUR SELECTED TEMPO and state tempo on video

Page 43, Play each entire line that begins with measure: 37, 41, 45, 49

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 the end, 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 - Page 46**

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

3) Page 38, exercise 185 - Play with metronome AT YOUR SELECTED TEMPO and state tempo on video

Can Can measure 30 to the end