

NWSA 2019-20 Audition Requirements

Band (Middle School)

Instructor - Mr. Jerald Lowe

Audition Length - 10 minutes

Middle School - Beginning Band (6)

*6th grade students may not audition for percussion and must begin on a wind instrument. Students do not need to bring an instrument unless they have experience. Please see * below regarding instruments.*

- ☐ Interview to discuss instruments and section availability.
- ☐ "Call and Response" activity to assess rhythm and basic gross and fine motor skills. Using their "lap drum," students will play back short, basic rhythms performed by the teacher.
- ☐ Review of basic note values: whole, half and quarter note. The most basic time signature, (4/4 time (common time) that is practiced in elementary music classes will be used.
- ☐ Previous band experience is not required.

Experienced Middle School Band (7-8)

Students are expected to bring their own wind instruments, percussion students should bring their percussion sticks (Ludwig 2b or equivalent; 1 pair of basic double-tipped beginning mallets.)

Please prepare the items below. The audition rubric includes assessment of tone quality, articulation, posture, artistic practice, audition preparation, engagement, and professionalism.

- ☐ Major Scales (B \flat , E \flat , F, C) one octave with arpeggio (must be performed from memory)
- ☐ Chromatic Scale (one octave or more, must be performed from memory)
- ☐ Sight reading (16 measure sight reading exercise)
- ☐ Students should prepare a solo that shows their abilities on their instrument. The all-district solo is recommended. Percussionists should prepare their solo on the marimba or xylophone. The prepared piece does not need to be memorized.
- ☐ Percussion (7th and 8th grade only):
Middle School Rudimental Solo (see the website tab to the left "reference documents")
Percussionists are also required to play major scales: (B \flat , E \flat , F, C) one octave on xylophone, and a full instrumental range chromatic scale (must be performed from memory.)

*NWSA does not have funding to provide students with common instruments, such as the trumpet, trombone, flute or clarinet. If a student is placed in the NWSA band program for 6th grade (through the lottery and audition process,) they should rent an instrument from one of the local music stores. It is best to check at least two stores to price-shop. It is not recommended to purchase an instrument for the first year of band. All music stores have a "rent to own" policy. If a student is given approval from Mr. Lowe to switch instruments at the end of the year, the rental money can transfer to the new instrument.

At the end of the 6th grade year, some students will pursue the opportunity to branch out to other instruments. NWSA will provide use at a nominal rental cost for tuba, french horn and baritone horn (euphonium) for the 7th grade band year.

If your child passes their band audition and is placed at NWSA for the band program, please contact Mr. Lowe with questions.