

NWSA 2019-20 Audition Requirements

Piano (Middle and High School)

Instructor: Ms. Kristin Stonnell

Audition Length – 35 minutes

The audition requirements for all grades are based on level of experience. Beginning students can only be accepted in 6th grade. Beginners in 7th and 8th grades cannot be accepted due to grade level groupings of classes in middle school. Beginning students can be accepted in 9th-12th grades.

Students with little or no prior piano experience are required to:

- Name all the white keys on the piano. Please refer to this link for a video lesson on this topic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2x21QYZ2Fo>
- Find middle “C” on the piano. Please refer to this link for a video lesson on this topic - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzHGk2O-0zM>
- Identify the treble clef notes from middle “C” to treble “G” on the staff. Please refer to this link for a video lesson on this topic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRNwJpzWLOo>
- Identify the bass clef notes from bass “F” to middle “C” on the staff. Please refer to this link for a video lesson on this topic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu0sh0JvBVQ>
- Complete a brief mini-lesson with up to four other students to see if they would be a good candidate for a group piano class. Recall and demonstration of material presented, engagement, and professionalism will be assessed.

Students with prior piano experience are required to:

- Play a brief selection (no longer than three minutes) that best demonstrates their capabilities. Students **must** bring their own music to the audition. **Playing by ear is not acceptable!** The piece should be something that the student has learned recently. Rock, gospel, or pop selections are not appropriate. Students who use lesson books with a private teacher are **required** to bring them to the audition to aid with class placement. Technique, musicianship, rhythm, accuracy, tone, posture, and performance presence will be assessed.
- Complete a written music theory test. Concepts covered on the test vary by level of experience, but may include note identification, rhythm identification, time signature identification, key signature identification, and basic music symbol identification.
- Sight read a brief selection of the teacher’s choice to help determine music reading ability.
- Play major scales with both hands together. Requirements by experience level are as follows:
 - **2-3 Years Experience:** C, G, D, A, and F Major (one octave, hands together)
 - **3 or More Years Experience:** All fifteen major scales (one octave, hands together) – teacher will choose select scales to perform during the audition
 - **Advanced Students:** Perform two or four octave major scales (all fifteen keys) if they prefer – teacher will choose select scales during the audition. Minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic) are not required, but encouraged!
- Bring a signed reference statement from their private teacher to the audition to assist in the placement process. The recommendation form can be found on the audition application tab.