

WMS Music Auditions for Incoming 5th Grade Students

Welcome to the music program at Washington Middle School! We're all very excited to welcome our incoming 6th grade class and we look forward to working with you for the next 3 years! Below, you'll find information for auditions in the WMS music program. **You are not required to audition** if you are planning to enroll in Debut Choir, Beginning Band, or Beginning Orchestra since these classes are for "first-timers" or kids that want a fresh start on their instrument. If you will be enrolling in one of those 3 classes, you don't have to read any further and we look forward to seeing you next year! If you would like to audition for a more challenging ensemble, please read below.

Auditions for interested students will be taking place **the week of May 18th, and should be sent in by Friday, May 22nd**. This audition will be recorded by each student and submitted electronically to **wmsauditions@gmail.com**. They may either be submitted by:

- Attaching file to email to wmsauditions@gmail.com (only recommended for files under 15MB)
- Uploading audition via a *private video* to YouTube and share the link with the email above
- Uploading to cloud service (iCloud, OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox) and sending accessible link to email above

When you send your email, include in the **subject line** "**Student First Name, Last Name, Instrument.**" For example, "Subject: John Doe, Tuba"

Orchestra auditions will consist of the following:

- Teacher-provided piece and scales (Parts can be found here: <https://bit.ly/35kMeiC>)
 - Includes One-Octave D Major Scale, G Major Scale, and C Major Scale
- (Optional) Choose your own! (30 seconds or less of any piece you want to play!)

Band auditions will consist of the following:

- Concert Bb Major Scale
- Chromatic scale (at least one octave)
- Teacher-provided piece (Parts can be found here: <https://bit.ly/35kMeiC>)
- (Optional) Choose your own! (30 seconds or less of any piece you want to play!)

Your audition can be recorded with any device, and you can record either with video or only audio. The best way to do this is to set up a phone on a chair or table, stand three to six feet away, and play! You can make one long recording, or you can record each part of your audition as a separate file. Be sure to listen to your recording before you submit it to make sure you can hear yourself in the recording!

The prepared audition material will be rated using a rubric addressing the following areas of performance:

1. **Rhythm** – Demonstrating a steady beat over time and playing notated rhythms correctly
2. **Pitch** – Sounding the correct pitches as notated and maintaining clear tonal center
3. **Tone/Intonation** – Demonstrating a characteristic sound on the instrument while maintaining control of intonation and tonal center
4. **Musical Expression** – Demonstrating understanding of correct style and performance of expressive markings as indicated in the selection
5. **Posture/Breathing** – Demonstrating correct posture and breathing while performing

Although not required, it is **highly encouraged** that students use a metronome in their audition. This shows that you can maintain a steady tempo. Your consistent speed matters less than the tempo you choose.

Questions? You can email Mr. Sundt (Band) at mjsundt@seattleschools.org or Mr. Kolk (Orchestra) at brkolk@seattleschools.org