

2019-20 Wind Ensemble Audition

Congratulations on your decision to try out for next year's Wind Ensemble. I know that no matter what happens, you will learn a lot and improve greatly just through the process of preparing for this audition!

The Wind Ensemble is an honors level section of Concert Band and membership in this group is reserved for those students who are willing to commit themselves to achieving the highest levels of performance quality, consistent practice outside of class, and a high standard of musical leadership within the band program. It's not so much about how well you play (although having a certain level of mastery is important), but how hard you are willing to work to improve.

The audition will consist of these elements to be performed for Mr. Crystal or one of the other sectional coaches:

1. The full range Chromatic Scale and 2 Major Scales (to be chosen at random during the audition).
2. The assigned etude for your instrument

Here are a couple things to keep in mind and to focus on while you prepare:

- 1 I am most interested in tone quality! You need to strive to play with your very best sound all the time. Your tone should be centered and in tune to do well. This is the one element of your playing that can only be addressed with regular practice outside of class and is a primary indication to me of how hard you are working in your individual practice time.
- 2 Technical fluency (how smoothly/easily you can get around on your instrument) is also very important. If you achieve a reasonable level of fluency with a great sound (it really is all about using more air), then speed will come in time with more practice.
- 3 Rhythmic and note accuracy – make sure that you can play the entire solo correctly, in time with steady tempo. If you can't tap your toe while you play, you probably don't know where the beat is. It is always better to play the rhythms correctly and a little bit slower than it is to play them too fast.
- 4 You will do your best if you prepare consistently leading up to the audition. You may not be able to tackle all of the material in one night or even one week; just keep chipping away at it every single day and you will make a lot of progress over time. If you try to prepare for this audition without sufficient practice, you will not perform your best.

Best of luck to you as you prepare! If you have any questions about what you need to play or you would like some help, please come see me in the band office or in between classes.

Good luck!
Mr. Crystal

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Andante

mf



93

Rhythmically

