

BHS ORCHESTRA INFO

Below is information about each curricular ensemble at BHS and information about placement in each group.

Curricular Ensembles:

- **Concert Orchestra**: Concert Orchestra is a Freshmen only ensemble. No audition is required to join Concert Orchestra. *Please see the note below for Freshmen that wish to audition for placement in a higher Orchestra.
- **Sinfonietta**: Sinfonietta is an intermediate level Orchestra for Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. Freshmen will automatically move on to Sinfonietta after their first year at BHS if they do not take an audition for placement in a higher Orchestra. Current Sophomores and Juniors may sign up for this class the following year without an audition.
- **Symphony Orchestra**: This Orchestra is for Freshmen*, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. This is an advanced level Orchestra that requires an audition for entry. Students must audition to stay in this group annually.
- **Philharmonic Orchestra**: This Orchestra is for Freshmen*, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. This is the most advanced level Orchestra that requires an audition for entry. Students must audition to stay in this group annually.

*Note: Freshmen may audition for placement in Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Orchestra but must enroll in Concert Orchestra first. Auditioning does not guarantee placement in a higher Orchestra.

Students do not need to audition for placement in a higher orchestra. Students will have a great experience in Orchestra no matter what level they are playing at. However, *if* you want to audition for placement in a higher Orchestra read the info below.

Audition Info for Symphony and Philharmonic:

- Students **must** audition if they want to be placed in Symphony Orchestra or Philharmonic Orchestra. Current Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Orchestra students must audition annually to remain in the group. 8th Graders, Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors are eligible to audition for placement in either group. Placement will be based on a score students receive after they audition. Mr. Griffith will use discretion in placing students for balancing instrument sections in each ensemble. Auditioning does not guarantee placement in a higher Orchestra nor does it guarantee that you stay in the same orchestra next year.

Audition Requirements

- Audition date: Auditions for the 2020-2021 school year will be held during the week of January 21-24th. Auditions will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis via Google Calendar appointment. If you cannot find a time that fits your schedule, email Mr. Griffith to set up a different time. *8th Graders that choose to audition will audition during their Orchestra class time this week.
- Audition time: Audition times will be offered before and after school during the week of Jan. 21st. Audition sign ups will be done in Google Calendar. Students will click a time slot in the calendar, confirm that time, and then book their audition time. Google Calendar will send a confirmation email to the student once this is completed.
- Audition materials: Students will audition on the following items.
 - Scales: A and F major scales. Students must play both scales either in two octaves or three. Points will be adjusted according to how many octaves you play. See the [scale rubric](#) for breakdown of points. These scales can be found in Google Classroom. You will play the scales with a metronome. **Know what tempo you want before you walk into your audition.**
 - Sight-Reading: Students will be given a sight-reading exercise from Sight Reading Factory. The criteria will be: Level 4, 8 measures, 4/4 time, A major key signature, at quarter note = 70 BPM. You will play this with a metronome. If you would like to practice with this Mr. Griffith can help you set up practice assignments in Sight Reading Factory. See the [sight-reading rubric](#) for a breakdown of points.
 - Excerpt: Students must prepare a piece of music provided by Mr. Griffith. This piece can be found in Google Classroom. See the [excerpt rubric](#) for the breakdown of points. You will play this excerpt with a metronome.
- Audition judge: Mr. Griffith will be the only person listening to your audition.
- Audition rubric: Each student will receive a score for their audition based on the criteria listed on the rubric. Rubrics can be found in Google Classroom. Students should speak to Mr. Griffith if they want to see the score that they received on their rubric.

If you have any questions about the Ensembles or the audition process, please contact Mr. Griffith. I am here to help!

Have a great day.

Chris Griffith