

Shaker BANDS

Wind Ensemble Auditions

August 27, 2018

Dear Band Members,

Congratulations! You are about to audition for one the finest high school bands in the nation. We hope that you audition to the best of your ability. We have a fantastic Band Program at Shaker. Be proud of it; enjoy the competition, and good luck to all.

There are talented musicians returning in every section. If you want to be part of us, then practice. Good preparation will help you relax during your audition. Most returning members already have their scales and solo piece ready for audition. So, start practicing today. Excerpts should be at performance level.

Here is an approximate instrumentation for the 2018-2019 Shaker Wind Ensemble:

1....Piccolo	2....Bass Clarinets	7....Trombones
7....Flutes	3....Alto Saxes	2....Euphoniums
2....Oboes	2....Tenor Saxes	4....Tubas
2....Bassoons	1....Baritone Sax	6....Percussion
1....Eb Clarinet	9....Trumpets	
9....Clarinets	6....French Horns	64... members

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Audition Procedures:

The Wind Ensemble audition process will include three sections:

1. Major and chromatic scales (at least two octaves for each scale – to be played evenly and smoothly)

The required excerpts are from “Danza Sinfonica” by James Barnes.

Picc, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon. (tempos indicated are very important for all excerpts.) Please play all sections in brackets. The upper voice should be played in all divisi-parts

Saxes, Trumpet, French Horns, Trombone, Euphonium, Tubas and Percussion (tempos indicated are very important for all excerpts.) Please play all sections in brackets. The upper voice should be played in any divisi-parts. Use mutes in required sections if you have them. **Percussion** will play excerpts from Danza as well as Tempered Steel: bring your own mallets and sticks.

2. A 45-second etude or solo passage of your choice. Please pick something that contrasts your required excerpts.

Auditions will begin September 17th. Audition time slots are posted in the back of the Wind Ensemble Room. Late audition requests will not be granted. If you have a conflict with your audition time, you should audition before the rest of your section, not after.

The Wind Ensemble list will be posted on October 1st. The Symphonic Band auditions will begin on October 17th. Students who auditioned well on their Wind Ensemble audition, but did not make the group will be given extra consideration on their Symphonic Band audition.

Top Ten Audition Tips:

- **Know what you are doing:** If you are unsure about expectations, how to play an excerpt, or confused about the process, ask Mr. Hughes.
- **Get help:** Prepare your music before going to your private lesson. Then, your teachers will be able to work on musicality and expression, not notes and rhythm. If you need help preparing your audition, you can ask a director. (Directors who will hear a section audition will not be able to help a student from that section.)
- **Progress slow and steady:** When you start your preparation, practice slowly and evenly using a metronome.
- **Meter the technique:** Tongue all slurred passages slowly to achieve an even flow, then add the appropriate articulation.
- **Master the technique:** Gradually work the music up to the required tempo. Try to memorize difficult passages.
- **Work on the correct part:** Make sure you are working on the required sections as outlined in this letter. If there is a divisi part, always play the top. Do not play cues.
- **Mark your music:** Marking your music will warn you that a potential problem is coming and will help reinforce the correction. Any penciled marks on the music were written by previous students, not Mr. Hughes. Remember, blank music does not look 'practiced' at auditions.
- **Use your two weeks wisely:** You can't cram for an audition. Focused, steady, and daily preparation works. That's why everyone gets at least two weeks to prepare.
- **Practice an audition:** Audition for mom and dad, friends in your section, and/or your private teacher.
- **Use recordings:** Record yourself often, then listen and evaluate it. Listen to one or more recordings of the piece. Recordings are available on youtube.

Expectations for Wind Ensemble:

Performances:

Wind Ensemble will have at least five performances this year. Attendance is mandatory at all performances. **Please Check Your Calendar.** Don't take a spot in our ensemble from someone else and miss a performance. The 'kiddie concert' is not scheduled yet. Jazz Ensemble, Evening of Percussion, and Tour dates are also listed.

- **Thursday, December 20th** - Winter Concert, Large Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, January 27th** - **Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band play Severance Hall**
- **Wednesday, February 20th** - Pre-Contest Concert, 7:00 pm
- **Wednesday, February 27th** - Evening of Percussion, 7:00 pm
- **Saturday, March 2nd** - Night for the Red and White (**Jazz Ensemble**)
- **Friday, March 15th** - Lakeland Jazz Festival, TBA (**Jazz Ensemble**)

- **Monday, March 25th –Tour Preview Concert**
- **Band Italy Tour-March 27-April 4**
- **Monday, April 29th – Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day**

Daily Rehearsals:

Wind Ensemble members are expected to be in the band room warming-up and preparing for rehearsal by 7:55 a.m. We do not have long, full band warm-ups. Due to the quantity and length of the literature we learn, rehearsal time is a precious commodity. Individuals must be warmed-up ready to rehearse at 8:05 a.m.

Advanced credit expectations (5.0):

We are proud of the Advanced credit recognition that the ensemble has received. We work at a rigorous pace. Rehearsal is not for learning your part. Rehearsal is for learning how your part fits into the overall musical sound. Your attendance, focus and individual mastery of your part is vital to our success.

The overall majority of members study privately with professional musicians on their band instrument. Keep a lesson journal. Choose any format (written or electronic). Include the following areas: music played, amount and quality of practice time, music and musical techniques to improve, and an evaluation of your performance during the lesson and preparation for the lesson. The journals will be collected a few times a year. They will be available for pick-up after school on the same day. (See Mr. Hughes in the case where a student does not have weekly private lessons.)

The Chamber Music Festival is an opportunity for students to perform as soloists or in small ensembles. Chamber music is a great way to improve individual musicianship. All Wind Ensemble members are expected to perform at a high level in the Chamber Festival. Set up your ensembles, and/or choose your solos soon. You may choose to play a solo and play in an ensemble. However, students are limited to two events.

Members are expected to participate in **bi-weekly** sectionals. Sectionals are another key to the success of our ensemble. The section leaders work out sectional time with their sections. The new Tuesday late start may be an awesome opportunity for sectional work. In past years members have struggled to find times when the entire section could meet. The school may have solved our problem. If you miss your sectional for any reason, you will need to play and rehearse your music with Mr. Hughes outside of the school day. Mr. Hughes may and run additional sectionals if students need help.

I am excited about the year ahead of us. Thank you for being musical leaders in the marching band. We, the band directors, love to hear you play your best at auditions and wish you the best of luck. The decision making process during auditions is not easy, clear-cut, or enjoyable for anyone. The only thing that we can promise is to try to be fair to everyone. If you don't make it, play well in Symphonic Band. It's one of the best bands in the State. If you make the Wind Ensemble, play well for yourself and all of those who wish they were playing your part. We are all lucky to be part of this great community, outstanding high school, and incredible band program.

Musically Yours,

Mr. Hughes and the Band Staff

Audition Schedule:

	a.m.	p.m.
September 17 th : (Monday Schedule)	Tenor/Bari Sax	Altos
September 18 th :	French Horns	Clarinets
September 20 th :	Trombones	Trumpets
September 21 st :	Tuba/Euph	Game
September 24 th : (Monday Schedule)	BassCl/D.Reeds	Flutes
September 25 th :	Perc.(Returning)	Perc.(New)

- The list will be posted on October 1st
- Jazz Auditions will start the week of October 8th
- The audition music can be found at:

www.shakerbands.org