

Watertown High School Bands

# **2013-2014 Auditions**

An audition is an individual performance evaluation. It is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your musical skills and show your progress.

***“Auditions are not about what you CANNOT do,  
but rather what you CAN do.” – Pat Erwin***

The results of your audition help us to design a course of study that meets your needs and enables you to participate fully in our instrumental music program.

Preparation for a successful audition requires thorough understanding of the audition requirements and a dedicated effort to practice the required music. All freshmen, sophomores and juniors enrolled in band are required to complete an audition for a grade regardless of future participation.

Your audition will include the following components:

1. Prepared Etude
2. Major Scales (Winds) / Rudiments (Percussion)
3. Sightreading
4. Band Performance and Participation Rubric (*completed by your directors*)

The numbered criteria above will be evaluated to determine your playing range, rhythmic accuracy, tone, technique and musicianship. Segments 1-3 represent two thirds of your score. The 4<sup>th</sup> segment represents the remaining one third of your total score. Your directors will complete a rubric that reflects your overall contribution to the music program in terms of effort, participation, attitude, attendance, and rehearsal behavior.

**Audition dates:** April 15-18

**Procedures:**

1. Enter a practice room and announce your name. (All auditions will be recorded on camera.)
2. Begin by performing your prepared etude to the best of your ability. Instructions for tempo, articulation and dynamics are included on the music. You can earn a maximum of 40 points for this segment.
3. Open the audition envelope that you received prior to entering the practice room and continue your audition with the scale portion at the top.
4. At the top of the sheet you will find a list of five major scales. The letters listed are the starting notes for your scale. Announce the name of the scale before playing it. Play each scale *from memory* in as many complete octaves as you can to demonstrate your range. Three points will be awarded for each

octave of each scale completed correctly. There is no time limit to this portion, however full credit will not be given for scales with restarts.

5. After you complete as many of the scales as possible, flip the sheet over and begin studying the sightreading excerpt. During your study period (roughly 30 seconds) you may “finger through” the notes, but you may not make any sound.
6. Perform the sightreading excerpt to the best of your ability. Mistakes in sightreading are common but can be avoided with good concentration and practice.
7. Your audition is now complete. Place the scale/sightreading sheet back into the envelope and return it to a director. Take all of your belongings with you. *Leave the camera running.*

**Reminders:**

- ***Students will not manipulate the cameras at any time, for any reason.*** If you have a problem during your audition, find a director.
- Audition scores will not be shared with you and the directors will not go into detail as to the results of your performance. This information is kept for the *directors only*.
- Your placement in a band will be based on instrumentation needed and total audition & rubric scores.