



## Mason High School Orchestras Audition Requirements 2014-2015

**As we transition to semesters, there will be many changes to orchestra classes that are being offered. In addition to new classes, several orchestras will change names. Please carefully read the information below.**

### ***Freshmen Orchestras (Formerly Concert Orchestra)***

Most freshmen will be placed in a Freshmen Orchestra. This course will continue to build upon the skills learned in eighth grade orchestra. All students will be placed in an orchestra based on the instrumentation needs of the ensemble. There is no additional audition and all students with previous string playing experience are welcomed to participate.

### ***Concert Orchestras (Formerly Philharmonic Strings)***

Concert Orchestras are open to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors and will focus on continuing to improve and advance string performance skills such as shifting, vibrato, bow techniques and ensemble performance. All students will be placed in an orchestra based on the instrumentation needs of the ensemble. There is no additional audition needed for current Mason High School Orchestra students and all students with previous string playing experience are welcomed to participate. Any student new to the Mason Orchestra Program needs to schedule an audition.

### ***Philharmonic Orchestra (Formerly Philharmonic Sinfonia)***

Philharmonic Orchestra is a higher level ensemble and is open by audition only. Students wishing to be considered for Philharmonic Orchestra must prepare a short solo of their choice as well as the scales listed below and should be prepared to sight-read. The *prepared solo must include shifting*. Students will need to schedule an after school audition at the high school **January 21-23**.

**A sign-up sheet for audition times will be posted in the orchestra room beginning January 6, 2014.**

#### **Minimum requirements for Philharmonic Orchestra:**

- ❖ Major Scales up to 5 sharps/5 flats – 2 Octaves, with demonstrated knowledge of key signatures
- ❖ Effective use of vibrato
- ❖ Secure understanding and accurate technique in shifting to the following positions:
  - Violin – Minimum III Position (V Position Preferable)
  - Viola – Minimum III Position
  - Cello/Bass – IV Position
- ❖ Demonstration of the following bow techniques:

○ Spiccato	Staccato	Marcato
○ Martelé	Détaché	Portato



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### *Honors Symphony Orchestra*

The MHS Honors Symphony Orchestra is a highly select group who performs the finest in orchestral literature. Admission to Symphony Orchestra will be dependent upon instrumentation needs and audition results. Priority will be given to juniors and seniors. Students will need to schedule an after school audition at the high school **January 21-23**.

**A sign-up sheet for audition times will be posted in the orchestra room beginning January 6, 2014.**

#### **Minimum requirements for Symphony Orchestra:**

- ❖ All Major Scales – 2 Octaves, with demonstrated knowledge of key signatures (preparatory work in 3 Octave scales is recommended)
- ❖ Effective use of a variety of vibrato styles, as well as demonstration of superior tone quality to add to musical expression.
- ❖ Facility in reading and accurately executing advanced shifting:
  - Violin – V position (VII recommended)
  - Viola – V position (VII and treble clef recommended)
  - Cello – Thumb position, tenor clef (treble clef recommended)
  - Bass – Thumb position
- ❖ Demonstration of the following bow techniques:

○ Spiccato	Staccato	Louré	Ricochet
○ Martelé	Sautillé	Détaché	Portato
- ❖ Weekly private lessons with a qualified teacher



## **Honors Symphony Orchestra Audition Requirements**

### **Be prepared to play the following:**

- ❖ Major Scales up to 5 sharps/5 flats, 2 octaves
- ❖ Sight-reading
- ❖ The excerpt from L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2 as marked
- ❖ Solo of your choice, 3 minutes or less
  - Must demonstrate superior technique including shifting, vibrato, tone, bow control, etc.