



Middle Tennessee School Band & Orchestra Association

Mid-State Band and Orchestra Auditions Handbook

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A. Student Eligibility:

Students of MTSBOA members and/or schools who wish to audition for a Mid-State ensemble must meet eligibility requirements as set forth in Section V of the MTSBOA [Constitution and By-Laws](#); any special requests must be made in writing to the Executive Committee, which shall contact all active members involved prior to making any decision.

Please note the following changes to the eligibility policy which will begin in 2023:

Must be a member in good standing of the Band or Orchestra organization at his/her own school, if there is one. When a student does not have access to a school-based ensemble the following criteria will be used to determine eligibility:

- a. The student must be a resident of counties served by MTSBOA.
- b. The student must be a member of a performing band, or orchestra ensemble with regularly scheduled rehearsals.
- c. The student's ensemble must have a teacher/sponsor who is a member in good standing of MTSBOA
- d. The teacher/sponsor will be responsible for the registration, transportation, and supervision of any and all student members of that ensemble not having access to a school-based ensemble.
- e. The teacher/sponsor will assume full liability for said students.

B. The Mid-State Performing Ensembles

7th & 8th Grade Gold and Silver Bands
9th & 10th Grade Gold and Silver Bands
11th & 12th Grade Gold and Silver Bands
7th & 8th Grade String Orchestra
9th & 10th Grade String Orchestra
11th & 12th Grade Full Orchestra
7th & 8th Grade Jazz Band
9th-12th Grade Gold and Silver Jazz Bands
High School Percussion Ensemble

C. Audition Requirements for Students:

1. Prepared Music

- a. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for acquiring appropriate music for each instrument for Mid-State auditions. From 2022 through 2025, newly composed etudes will be used each year for Winds and Percussion auditions. Beginning in 2026, etudes will be randomly selected each year by the Executive Committee from the four cycles of composed etudes. The same cycle of etudes cannot be used two years in a row.

- b. Prepared music shall be made available through the MTSBOA website no later than the final day in August.
- c. Prepared Barrier – All Wind, Percussion, and String student auditions will be subject to a prepared music barrier. Students will perform the prepared music first in the audition. If the judges feel that the student does not display an acceptable level of proficiency on the excerpts, he/she will be immediately dismissed from the audition and will not be allowed to perform scales or sight-reading.
 - I. Judges may stop a student on either excerpt if an acceptable level of proficiency is not demonstrated. The judges will still hear the 2nd excerpt if applicable.
 - II. Percussion students may be dismissed from one of the three disciplines (Snare, Timpani, and Mallets) due to lack of proficiency on prepared music. This will not eliminate the student from auditioning in the remaining rooms.

2. Scales, Fundamentals, or Jazz-Improvisation

Scales

- a. During concert auditions for **winds and mallets**, students will play two major scales and a chromatic scale.
 - I. The two major scales for winds and mallets will be selected and announced forty-eight hours prior to the date of the audition.
 - i. 7-8 → Selected from the following concert pitch scales:

C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db
 - II. Major scales must be played with the prescribed rhythm pattern (quarter note/eighth note) indicated on the MTSBOA approved scale sheets.
 - III. Chromatic scales must be played with one of the two prescribed rhythm patterns (eighth notes OR eighth-note triplets) indicated on the MTSBOA approved scale sheets.
 - IV. Octave requirements are listed on the MTSBOA approved [Scale Sheets](#). Please refer to the scale scoring rubric for assessment of required range and tempo.
 - V. Mallet chromatic range will start on F and be two octaves.
 - VI. The minimum tempo for all scales will be:
 - i. 7-8 → $J = 80$
 - VII. All scales must be performed from memory; scale sheets will not be permitted in the audition room.
 - VIII.
 - I. Major scales must be played with the prescribed rhythm pattern (quarter note/eighth note) indicated on the MTSBOA approved scale sheets.

- II. The minimum tempo for all scales will be:
 - i. 7-8 → ♩ = 80
- III. All scales must be performed from memory; scale sheets will not be permitted in the audition room.

Fundamentals

- c. During concert percussion auditions, **snare drums** will play two rudiments that are selected and announced forty-eight hours prior to the date of the audition in addition to a buzz roll. Rudiments will be selected from their grade-level MTSBOA approved rudiment sheet
 - I. [7-8 Rudiments](#) → Should be performed with a steady tempo exactly as indicated on the MTSBOA approved rudiment sheet.
**7-8 are no longer using the 'slow-fast-slow' tempo requirement*
 - II. All rudiments must be performed from memory.
 - III. Buzz roll will be the same (soft-loud-soft) for all grade bands.
- d. An independent demonstration/performance of **timpani fundamentals** will occur during the audition consisting of tuning and a long roll.
 - I. For tuning timpani, students may **ONLY** use a pitch pipe, a tuning fork, the provided bell kit, or an electronic device that gives a pitch but does **NOT** check for pitch accuracy.
 - II. 7th and 8th Grade Students will have 30 seconds to tune.

3. Sight-Reading

- a. Sight-reading for all applicable instruments shall consist of 3 four measure selections, of increasing difficulty.
- b. Students will perform all three sight-reading etudes and each will be scored independently.
- c. For concert and string auditions, each sight-reading etude will be four measures.
- d. Students will have ten seconds to study each etude before performing it.
- e. Judges have the authority to stop a student's performance on the given sight-reading etude.
 - I. Students will still proceed to the next etude.
- f. Whenever possible, SightReading Factory will be used as the source material for sight-reading etudes.
- g. The following parameters will be used to generate sight-reading etudes:

7th and 8th Grade Winds and Mallet Percussion:	
1st SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 3/4 or 4/4 <u>Key:</u> Concert B ^b , E ^b , or F (no accidentals)
SR Factory Level 2	
2nd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 3/4 or 4/4 (different from the 1 st etude) <u>Key:</u> Add Concert Ab, C, and all rel. minors to those of 1st etude <u>Other Factors:</u> Includes syncopated figure and 4 16 th -note figure
SR Factory Level 3	
3rd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> Almost always 6/8 <u>Key:</u> Add Concert G, D ^b , and all rel. minors to those of 2nd etude
SR Factory Level 4	

7th and 8th Grade Snare:	
1st SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 3/4 or 4/4
SR Factory Level 2	
2nd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 3/4 or 4/4 (different from the 1 st etude) <u>Other Factors:</u> Includes syncopated figure and 4 16 th -note figure
SR Factory Level 3	
3rd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> Almost always 6/8
SR Factory Level 4	
<i>*Any included rudiments will match requirements of fundamental portion of audition</i>	

7th and 8th Grade Timpani:

**Composed etudes with two pitches that utilize Sight Reading Factory parameters*

1st SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 2 Drums
SR Factory Level 2	
2nd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 (different from the 1 st etude) 2 Drums
SR Factory Level 3	
3rd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> Almost always 6/8 2 Drums
SR Factory Level 4	

7th and 8th Grade Jazz:

**Composed etudes in jazz idiom/style using the same parameters as above.*

1st SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 3/4 or 4/4 <u>Key:</u> Concert B ^b , E ^b , or F (no accidentals)
SR Factory Level 2	
2nd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> 3/4 or 4/4 (different from the 1 st etude) <u>Key:</u> Add Concert Ab, C, and all rel. minors to those of 1st etude <u>Other Factors:</u> Includes syncopated figure and 4 16 th -note figure
SR Factory Level 3	
3rd SR Etude	<u>Time Sig:</u> Almost always 6/8 <u>Key:</u> Add Concert G, D ^b , and all rel. minors to those of 2nd etude

D. Scoring of Required Audition Elements:

1. Prepared music

- a. Concert Winds, Concert Percussion, and Strings - **50%** of the total score (when two etudes, each is 25% each)
- b. Jazz - **35%** of the total score (each etude is 17.5% each)
- c. Consists of **5 subcategories**:
 - i. Tone
 - ii. Tempo/Rhythm
 - iii. Pitch Accuracy/Intonation
 - iv. Articulation/Style
 - v. Musicality

2. Scales

- a. Concert Winds - 20% (Two Major Scales 5% each, Chromatic Scale 10%)
- b. Strings - 20% (Two Major Scales 10% each)
- c. Jazz - not part of the audition
- d. Concert Perc - 20% (Two Major Scales 5% each, Chromatic Scale 10%)
*Performed on Mallets only
- e. Consists of **4 subcategories**:
 - i. Pitch Accuracy/Range
 - ii. Tempo
 - iii. Rhythm
 - iv. Tone/Technique

3. Sight-Reading

- a. Concert Winds, Perc, and Strings - **30%** of the total score (10% per etude)
- b. Jazz - **33%** of the total score (11% per etude)
- c. Consists of **5 subcategories**:
 - i. Tone
 - ii. Tempo/Rhythm
 - iii. Pitch Accuracy/Intonation
 - iv. Articulation/Style
 - v. Musicality

4. Percussion Fundamentals

- a. **20%** of Total Score
 - i. Snare - 2 Rudiments, and Orchestral Buzz Roll - (5% per rudiment and 10% for Buzz Roll)
 1. [7-8 Rudiment List](#)
 2. [9-10 Rudiment List](#)
 3. [11-12 Rudiment List](#)
 - ii. Timpani - An independent demonstration/performance of **timpani fundamentals** will occur during the audition and will include timpani tuning and a long roll.
 1. 10% - Tuning

2. 10% - Long Roll
- iii. Mallets - Scales, as listed in Section G under Scales

E. Accommodations for Visually Impaired Students

1. Visually impaired students auditioning for Mid-State shall audition with the same prepared music and scale requirements as sighted students of the same grade level. Sight reading scores for these students shall be determined using the following formula:

$$(a/0.7) - a = b$$

a = The sum of the individual judge's Prepared and Scales scores
b = Sight-Reading score to be entered by the individual judge, rounded to the nearest half-point

F. Audition Day Procedures

1. Student Equipment Requirements

- a. Concert Winds, Jazz Winds, and Strings will be expected to bring their instrument as well as a copy of the prepared music for audition.
- b. Concert Percussion students will bring sticks and mallets for all three disciplines in addition to a copy of their prepared music.
- c. A well-tuned snare drum will be available in each audition room and students are highly encouraged to use the drum provided in the room
- d. For tuning timpani, students may ONLY use a pitch pipe, a tuning fork, the provided bell kit, or an electronic device that gives a pitch but does NOT check for pitch accuracy.
- e. A drum set will be provided for the jazz audition, however, students may choose to bring pieces of their own set (such as cymbals) or bring their own complete drum set. Students must provide their own copy of the prepared music for the audition. An amplifier is provided for jazz guitar and jazz bass auditions. Jazz Guitar and Jazz Bass students are expected to bring their instrument, any necessary cables, their own amp (if desired), and a copy of their prepared music for the audition.

2. On the Day of Audition,

- a. All students must report to the registration table for their instrument within their scheduled time frame to receive an audition number. Students will audition in numerical order.
- b. Registration will close promptly at 3:00pm for Flutes, Bb Clarinets, Alto Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombone, Percussion, and Violin. Registration will close promptly at 1:00pm for Oboes, Bassoons, Bass Clarinets, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Viola, Cello, String Bass, Harp.
- c. Once registration is closed and the final number of registrants is determined, judges will listen to all registered students who are present at

the audition room. If there are any additional students that received an audition number that day but have not yet auditioned, the judges will remain available for up to **30** additional minutes. At that point, auditions for that room will close.

- d. Only directors may request special permission for students to audition out of order by submitting a written request to either the President or Executive Committee.
 - i. If students are not available during the registration period, the Director must register and receive that ticket for the student.

3. Order of Audition:

- a. All **Concert Winds and Strings** auditions that are played for a single panel will be performed in the following order:

- 1. Prepared
- 2. Major Scales
- 3. Chromatic Scale (Not applicable for Strings)
- 4. Sight-Reading

- b. All **Concert Winds and Strings** auditions that are played for a double panel will be performed in the following order:

- 1. Prepared Room
 - a. Prepared
 - b. Major Scales
 - c. Chromatic Scale
- 2. Sight Reading Room
 - a. Sight Reading

- c. All **Jazz** Auditions are a single panel, and will be performed in the following order:

- 1. Prepared
- 2. Sight Reading
- 3. Improvisation (9th-12th only)

- d. All **Concert Percussion** Auditions are played for a triple panel, and will be performed in the following order:

- 1. Snare Room
 - a. 2 Rudiments
 - b. Orchestral Buzz Roll
 - c. Prepared Music
 - d. Sight Reading
- 2. Mallet Room
 - a. Major Scales
 - b. Chromatic Scale

- c. Prepared Music
 - d. Sight Reading
3. Timpani
- a. Timpani Tuning
 - b. Long Roll
 - c. Prepared Music
 - d. Sight Reading

G. Tabulation and Audition Results

1. Auditioning students will be ranked according to total score, irrespective of doublings. Final assignment of chair position will be made following the resolution of doublings if applicable.
 - a. Should a student be selected on more than one instrument, it is the responsibility of that student's director to contact the student for a decision and notify the appropriate ensemble chair or auditions chairperson of the student's choice as soon as possible.
 - b. No chair placements are considered final until all doublings within the section have been resolved.
 - c. Results (by ensemble) will be posted online as soon as they are finalized.
 - i. Results will not be posted onsite.
 - d. Individual student scores shall be released to directors online.
2. In the event of tied scores, exact chair order will be determined by the following:
 - a. 1st tie-breaker – Sight-Reading %
 - b. 2nd tie-breaker – Prepared Music %
 - c. 3rd tie-breaker - Tone Super %
 - d. 4th tie-breaker - Musicality Super %
 - e. 5th tie-breaker - Pitch Super %
 - f. 6th tie-breaker - Rhythm Super %.
 - g. If students remain tied to this point, they will be seated alphabetically.

H. Audition Judge - Information and Instructions

1. The President-elect will appoint Audition Judges
 - a. Assignments will be created based upon the information that the Director filled out when registering students, as well as the needs of the association for Audition days in which a Director has at least one student registered to audition.
 - b. Persons unable to fulfill their agreement to judge will contact the President-elect as soon as possible so that other persons may be found to fill such vacancies.
2. The President-elect will appoint judges for each instrument or grouping of instruments as follows:
 - a. Two panel rooms will be used when the number of students registered is equal to or greater than 70.

- b. Percussion auditions shall take place in three rooms, with two judges in each room; rooms will be designated: Snare, Timpani, Mallets.
3. Audition judges shall use the scales as assigned by the Mid-State Auditions Chair.
4. Sight-Reading music shall be obtained by the Mid-State Auditions Chair.
5. Screens will be provided for judges to prohibit students being seen during their audition.
6. Judges are responsible for utilizing a uniform method of judging as provided on forms furnished by the Association and as outlined in sections above.
7. Judges shall instruct the monitor that students must be kept away from the audition room door.
8. Students may only earn a maximum of half credit if the minimum tempo is not being observed in the case of scales.

I. Mid-State Bands Instrumentation

*Refer to page 3 of the TNMEA [All-State Handbook](#) for further instruction on special additional instrumentation for All-State.

Grades	Instrument	Students	All-State Quota	Alternates
	Flute	11	4*	4
	Oboe	3	1	3
	Bassoon	3	0*	3
	Bb Clarinet	23	9	6
	Bass Clarinet	5	2	4
	Alto Saxophone	5	2	5
	Tenor Saxophone	2	1	3
	Baritone Saxophone	2	1	3
	Trumpet	14	5	4
	French Horn	10	4	4
	Trombone	11	3	4
	Euphonium	4	2	3
	Tuba	6	3*	3
9/10, 11/12	Percussion	7	2*	3
7/8	Snare	4		3
7/8	Mallet	2		3
7/8	Timpani	1		3

J. Mid-State Jazz Bands Instrumentation

7th/8th Grade, 9th – 12th Grade

Instrument	Students Taken	Alternates
Alto Saxophone	2	2
Tenor Saxophone	2	2
Baritone Saxophone	1	2
Trumpet	5	2
Trombone	4 (5 if no Bass Tbn)	2
Bass Trombone	1	2
Piano	1	2
Guitar	1	2
Bass	1	2
Drum Set	1	2
Auxiliary Percussion	1	2

K. [Mid-State Audition Rubrics](#)