



End-of-Year Placement Audition Instructions

Because of the prolonged shutdown of school and the change of middle school attendance boundaries, all middle school band programs in Belton ISD are presenting this unified process regarding the End-of-Year Band Placement Auditions for next school year. All current 6th and 7th grade band students are required to participate so we can adequately assess each student's musical skills mastered from this school year.

This audition serves as the placement exam for students into one of the ensembles (groups) we will have in Band next year. Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band (and perhaps Concert Band) are considered advanced ensembles, and admittance into one of these groups is based on ability and musicianship, not necessarily grade level. Much like when students move from 6th to 7th grade, Symphonic Band (and perhaps Concert Band) serves as the natural next step in the progression from the Beginner year. Wind Ensemble serves as the premier group, and students in these advanced ensembles participate in pep rallies, concerts, contests, etc.

For wind players, the audition material consists of one étude (study excerpt) that has been approved by all district middle school band directors, and is instrument-specific. Percussion students will have the opportunity to audition on two études, one for snare drum and one for mallets. If a percussion student does not have a mallet instrument at home, then only the snare étude will suffice, even if performed on a practice pad. These études will be provided directly to students, and each audition performance should be video recorded by students.

Students should submit only one video recording, and will **not** be allowed to redo it. All video recording submissions are due to their current band director no later than Friday, April 17 at 11:59pm. This can be done via Schoology, Google Classroom, Email, or whatever method your current director will accept. Current directors will be responsible for making sure each student's band director for next year has access to their video recording for scoring.

Auditions will be scored by each student's band director they will have next school year. For example, if a student now attends Lake Belton MS, but will attend Belton MS next year, the Belton MS band directors will score that student's audition. Scores determine ensemble placement into one of the ensembles listed above.

Belton MS and South Belton MS: For interested saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion students, this audition also serves as placement into Jazz Band. No additional music is required to prepare for this ensemble. Not all students who audition for Jazz Band will earn a spot in this group. For Lake Belton MS and North Belton MS, their directors will accept any band student to be a part of the Jazz Band.

Regardless of school, students must be concurrently enrolled in either Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band (or perhaps Concert Band) for the 2020-2021 school year, and use 2 elective choices in order to participate in this group. Students should make a comment in their video recording or make a note in their audition submission if they would like to be considered for Jazz Band.

Audition results are final and will be made available to students and parents on Monday, April 27, and the results will then be sent to each school's counselors for next year's scheduling. Those students choosing to not remain in Band next year will not have their results posted.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this letter to ensure a smooth audition process. If you have any questions, please contact your band director. Thank you for your continued support of Belton ISD Bands!