

INCOMING 9TH GRADE STEEL DRUMS AUDITIONS FOR 2023-2024

Audition Requirements for Students Who Play

Drum Set, Percussion, Electric/Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar, Piano, or
Woodwinds/Brass

March 27, 28, and 29, 2023, 4:30-6:30 pm

(in person at SMCHS)

Drum Set

1. Musicality

- a. Demonstrate a minimum of two grooves or beats, contrasting styles preferred if possible (i.e., rock and jazz, RnB and reggae, etc.)
 - i. Can play with or without a recording
 - ii. If playing with a recording, please email Ms. Duncan ahead of time with the song title, and have a recording ready on a device when you come for your audition

2. Technique

- a. Demonstrate the following on snare drum:
 - i. [Closed roll/buzz roll/multiple bounce roll](#)
 - ii. Rudiments: [flam](#), [drag](#), [single paradiddle](#)
- b. Any other technique you wish to demo ([brushes](#), double-kick pedal)

3. Sightreading

- a. Sightread a musical excerpt on snare drum at quarter note=60 BPM
- b. If possible, sightread a fully-notated drum set musical excerpt, quarter note=60 BPM

4. Rhythmic Coordination

- a. Learn a coordination exercise that combines stepping, clapping, and moving forwards and backwards

**Drum set players may also demonstrate their abilities on marimba, xylophone, piano, or other melodic instrument (not required)*

Percussion (snare drum and 2-mallets)

1. Musicality

- a. Perform a solo piece that best demonstrates your musical and technical skills
 - i. Either on snare drum or marimba/xylophone, two mallets (your choice)

2. Technique

- a. Two major scales of your choice, two octaves (play on marimba or xylophone)
- b. [C chromatic scale](#), two octaves (play on marimba or xylophone)
 - i. *Note: in the video link above, the video only shows one octave – you need to play TWO octaves*
- c. Play all scales as eighth notes
- d. Tempo: quarter note=80 BPM

3. Sightreading

- a. Sightread a short musical excerpt on marimba, quarter note=60 BPM

4. Rhythmic Coordination

- a. Learn a coordination exercise that combines stepping, clapping, and moving forwards and backwards

**Percussionists may also demonstrate their abilities on drum set if they wish (not required)*

Electric or Acoustic Guitar

1. Musicality

- a. Perform a song or piece that best demonstrates your musical abilities
- b. Need to demonstrate both strumming ability (playing chords) and your ability to play a single melodic line (one note at a time)
- c. Can play with or without a recording
 - i. If playing with a recording, please email Ms. Duncan ahead of time with the song title, and have a recording ready on a device when you come for your audition

2. Technique

- a. Strum a standard chord progression in any key (your choice)
- b. Examples:
 - i. 12-bar blues
 - ii. [I-IV-V-IV](#)
 - iii. Other common progression

3. Sightreading/Sight-"hearing"/Rote Playing

- a. Learn a new strumming pattern, using a common Caribbean rhythm that you'll learn in your audition, and using the following chords:
 - i. [G major - C major - D- G major \(I-IV-V-I in G major\)](#)
- b. Sightread a simple single melodic line (reading musical notation), quarter note=60 BPM

4. Rhythmic Coordination

- a. Learn a coordination exercise that combines stepping, clapping, and moving forwards and backwards

Electric or Upright Bass

1. Musicality

- a. Perform a song or piece that best demonstrates your musical abilities
- b. Can play with or without a recording
 - i. If playing with a recording, please email Ms. Duncan ahead of time with the song title, and have a recording ready on a device when you come for your audition

2. Technique

- a. Demonstrate a standard chord progression in a key of your choice, such as:
 - i. 12 bar blues
 - ii. I-IV-V-IV
 - iii. Other common progression
- b. Demonstrate walking bass technique, if possible

3. Sightreading/Sight-"hearing"/Rote Playing

- a. Learn a new bass pattern using a common Caribbean rhythm that you'll learn in your audition, and using the following chords:
 - i. G major - C major - D7 - G major (I-IV-V-I in G major)
- b. Sightread a simple single melodic line (reading musical notation), quarter note=60 BPM

4. Rhythmic Coordination

- a. Learn a coordination exercise that combines stepping, clapping, and moving forwards and backwards

Piano

1. Musicality

- a. Perform a solo piece that best demonstrates your musical abilities

2. Technique

- a. Two major scales of your choice (both hands at the same time), two octaves each
- b. C chromatic scale, two octaves (both hands at the same time)

3. Sightreading

- a. Sightread a short musical excerpt, quarter note=60 BPM

4. Rhythmic Coordination

- a. Learn a coordination exercise that combines stepping, clapping, and moving forwards and backwards

Woodwinds and Brass

1. Musicality

- a. Perform a solo piece that best demonstrates your musical ability
- b. This can be a piece from your school band program, or something you've learned in private lessons

2. Technique

- a. Two major scales of your choice, one octave each
- b. C chromatic scale, one octave

3. Sightreading

- a. Sightread a short musical excerpt, quarter note=60 BPM

4. Rhythmic Coordination

- a. Learn a coordination exercise that combines stepping, clapping, and moving forwards and backwards