

INCOMING 9TH GRADE STEEL DRUMS AUDITIONS

FOR 2024-2025

Audition Requirements for Students Who Play Drum Set, Percussion,
Electric/Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar, or Piano

**Note: you do NOT have to have prior steel drums experience to audition, and you will not be expected to prepare any steel drums music for your audition. Ms. Duncan will evaluate your musical abilities on your primary instrument only.*

Tuesday, April 30, 4:30-6:30 pm (in person at SMCHS in room A142)

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 \(AKA buzz roll, AKA multiple bounce roll\)](#)

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 if they wish (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