



STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL

Music Department

Staples High School
70 North Avenue
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Student Musicians,

There are many opportunities for you to be musically involved at Staples both during and outside of the scheduled school day. All of the scheduled musical ensemble courses during the school day are inclusive and do not have a capacity limit. However, for students who are seeking additional enrichment in musicianship and performance, there are audition-only ensembles that meet outside of the school day. Students must be enrolled in a scheduled musical ensemble that meets during the school day in order to be eligible for an audition.

The ensembles that are available for audition are:

- **Orphenians** - is open to vocal students who wish to explore and perform advanced choral repertoire. Students are selected by audition and must be a current member of a Staples band, chorus, or orchestra. Orphenians rehearse after school on Tuesday afternoons, 3:00-5:00PM. Additionally, each section has one 30-minute sectional before school each week (7:30a-8a). Orphenians perform at school functions, festivals, community events, and concerts during the school year. [More information and audition sign ups can be found here.](#)
- **Jazz Ensemble 1 and Jazz Ensemble 2** - The objective of the Staples High School Jazz Program is to allow all students to experience and participate in the tradition of jazz and improvisational music. We offer a variety of ensembles, which students are placed in based on a brief audition taking place in the spring of each school year for the following year's ensembles. [More information can be found here.](#)
- **Stradivarius and Amati String Chamber Ensembles**- are both opportunities for string orchestra students to experience and perform advanced orchestra music in a true small group chamber setting. Students are selected by audition and must be a current member of a Staples orchestra, chorus, or band. Both chamber orchestras meet for two hours on Monday from 5:30-7:30 pm. In addition to rehearsal, each instrument section must participate in a weekly 30-minute sectional from 7:20-7:50 am. Performances will include school functions, festivals, community events, and concerts throughout the year. [More information and audition sign ups can be found here.](#)

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the directors below:

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Mazzarella - Director of Bands and Jazz Studies
kmazzarella@westportps.org

Ms. Carrie Mascaro - Director of Orchestras
cmascaro@westportps.org

Mrs. Lauren Pine - Director of Choral Activities
lpine@westportps.org

Mrs. Jeri Brima - Director of Orchestras
jbrima@westportps.org

