



STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL

Music Department

Staples High School
70 North Avenue
Westport, CT 06880

Staples Chamber Orchestras and Ensembles Information Sheet

Participation:

The Staples HS chamber orchestra program is open to all students participating in the core ensemble strands - orchestra, band or choir. Many factors are considered in placing students into each of our performing ensemble including playing ability, balance in the ensemble and student's availability to fully participate in weekly rehearsals and sectionals as well as performances throughout the year. This ensemble is a graded class just like all the coursework during normal school hours. Students are expected to prepare for and attend rehearsals as they do any other class. We are such a successful ensemble due to the commitment and dedication of our student musicians.

Attendance Expectations:

Stradivarius Chamber orchestra rehearsals take place every Monday from 5:15-7:15 pm. Each section will have a 30 minute sectional rehearsal either before school from 7:20-7:50 am or after school - each section will choose a day that works best for the group. It is vital that all students consistently participate in sectional and full ensemble rehearsals.

If you plan to audition for STRADIVARIUS, please consider avoiding any Monday evening lessons, doctors appointments, etc. Make sure to schedule extra help sessions with your teachers so they do not conflict with weekly sectionals.

Many students in the chamber orchestra are also involved in the sports program. The music department has an agreement with the Athletic Director to allow students to miss practice for period 9 rehearsals. In the same fashion, you will be excused from STRADIVARIUS rehearsal for sports games.

Students with excessive unexcused absences from rehearsal and/or sectionals will be asked to leave the ensemble.



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Chamber Orchestra Audition Information

Auditions will take place the following dates:

Staples High School Auditions will be held during the make-up exam periods:

June 11th - 10:30-12:30 and 1:00-2:00

June 12th - 10:30-12:30

- Please see me for an alternative time if you are taking makeup exams during these time slots

Students should sign-up for an audition time using this link:

[Staples Chamber Audition Sign-up](#)

BMS 8th Grade Auditions will be held on Thursday, May 22 from 3:25-5:00

CMS 8th Grade Auditions will be held on Tuesday, June 3 from 3:25-5:00

8th Grade students should sign up for one 10 minute audition using this link:

[Middle School Audition Sign Up](#)

Requirements

All students must prepare

- One page from the solo literature demonstrating your most accomplished playing
- One three-octave scale and arpeggio (or as many octaves as you can) of your choice (basses only need to play 2 octaves)
- Sight reading - the sight-reading excerpt will be provided at the audition

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out:

Carrie Mascaro - Director of Orchestras

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203-341-1328