Instrumental Music Scholarship Auditions

At Bishop O'Connell High School, students have the opportunity to participate in a vibrant and enriching visual and performing arts program. Incoming students who demonstrate exceptional musical talent, dedication, professionalism, and a passion for the arts may be considered for an Instrumental Music Scholarship in recognition of their abilities and potential.

The Instrumental Music Scholarship recognizes students who exhibit outstanding musicianship and a commitment to continued musical growth through performance on their chosen instrument.

Audition Prerequisites

- Students must apply for admission to Bishop O'Connell High School.
- Students awarded an Instrumental Music Scholarship must enroll in and actively participate in at least one instrumental ensemble during their freshman year.

Audition Procedures

Students should report to the upper gym lobby **15 minutes prior to their scheduled audition time**. Instrumental auditions will take place in the band room. Students will be evaluated on their overall musicianship, including tone quality, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, technical proficiency, and musical interpretation.

1. Scales and Technical Proficiency

Students should prepare the following major scales, performed over two octaves when appropriate for their instrument:

- E-flat Major
- B-flat Major
- F Major
- C Major
- G Major
- D Major
- A Major

Students auditioning on band instruments may also be asked to perform a chromatic scale appropriate to their instrument's range and technical abilities.

2. Prepared Musical Selection

Students should prepare one published musical selection of their choice that appropriately demonstrates their technical and musical abilities.

- The selection should be approximately **three to five minutes in length**.
- Students are encouraged to consult their private music instructor or school music director when choosing appropriate repertoire.

- All selections must be performed **solo, without accompaniment**. Piano accompaniment is neither required nor provided.

Students should select repertoire that highlights their musical strengths, expressive capabilities, and overall artistry.

3. Sight-Reading

Students will be asked to perform a short sight-reading excerpt, approximately four to eight measures in length.

- The audition proctor will provide the excerpt at the audition.
- Students will have approximately 30 seconds to review the music before performing.
- Following the preparation period, students will have one opportunity to perform the excerpt.

Sight-reading will be evaluated based on rhythmic accuracy, pitch accuracy, musical continuity, and overall musicianship.

Dress Expectations

Although appearance is not a component of the audition evaluation, students should present themselves with confidence and professionalism, reflecting their commitment to their musical pursuits.

Questions and Additional Information

We look forward to hearing from our prospective students and celebrating the musical talents they bring to Bishop O'Connell High School. If you have any questions regarding the audition process, scholarship opportunities, or instrumental music programs, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tim LaCrosse
Director and Department Chair of Fine Arts
Bishop O'Connell High School
tlacrosse@bishopoconnell.org
(703) 237-1400

Ronald Isaacson
Director of Bands
Bishop O'Connell High School
risaacson@bishopoconnell.org
(703) 237-1400